A CHOICE COLLECTION
of
Lessons for the Harpsichord or Spinnet

Composed by ye late Mr. Henry Purcell *Organist of his*
Majesties *Chappel Royal, & of* St. Peters *Westminster*

LONDON.

Printed on Copper-Plates for Mrs. Frances Purcell, *Executrix of the Author, and are to be Sold by* Henry Playford *at his Shop in the Temple Change Fleetstreet.* 1696.

BRITISH MUSEUM

To

Her Royal Highness the Princess of Denm

Your Highness's Generous Encouragem[t] of my deceased
Performances in Musick, together with the great Honour your
has don that Science, in your Choice of that Instrument for
following Compositions were made; will I hope Justifie to the
or at least excuse to your Goodness this Presumption of Laying both
and my Self at your Highness's Feet. This Madam is the highest
I can pay to his Memory; for Certainly it cannot be more ado
recommended either to the Present, or Future Age, than by your
Patronage which as it was the Greatest Ambition of his Life, so
be the only comfort of his Death to.

Your Highness's most Obedien
Humble Servant

Fran

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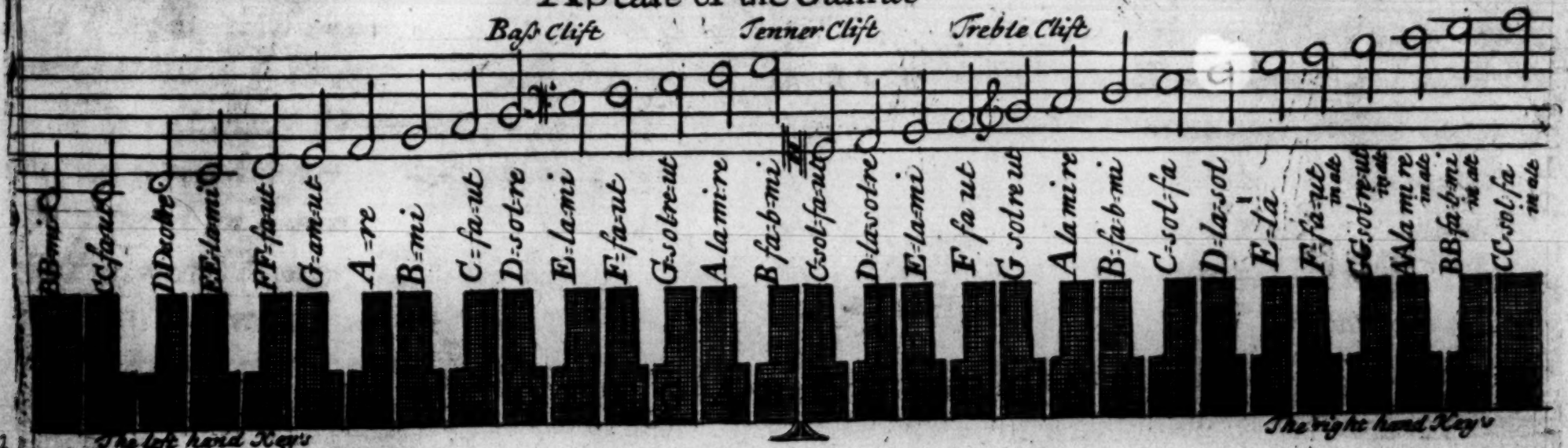
There will nothing Conduce more to ye perfect ataining to play on ye Harpsicord or Spinnet then a Serious application to ye following rules, In order to which you must first learn ye Gamut or Scale of Musick, getting ye names of ye notes by heart, & observing at ye same time ye right line & space every note stands on, that you may know & distinguish them at first Sight, in any of ye following Lessons, to which purpose I have placed a Scheme of keys exactly as they are in ye Spinnet or Harpsicord. & on every key ye first letter of ye note directing to ye names lines & Spaces where ye proper note stands.

A Scale of the Gamut



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All lessons on ye Harpsicord or Spinnet, are prickt on six lines & two staves, in score (or struck through both staves with strokes or bars Joyning them together) ye first stave contains ye treble part, & is perform'd with ye right hand. the second stave is ye bass and consequently play'd with ye left hand. in the foregoing example of ye Gamut there are thirty black Keyes, which is ye number containd on ye Spinnet or Harpsicord, but to some Harpsicords they add to that number both above & below notes standing below ye six lines, which have leger lines added to them are calld double, as double CC=faut, or double DD=sol=re, soe they are above on ye treble hand, but then they are call'd in alt as being ye highest, there are likewise in ye example twenty innard keyes, which are white they are ye half notes or flats and Sharps to ye other keyes, A Sharp is mark'd thus (♯) and where it is placed before any note in a Lesson it must be play'd on the inner key or half note above, which will make it sound half a note higher, a flat is marked thus (♭) and where it is placed to any note it must be play'd on ye inner key or half note below ye proper note, and makes it sound half a note lower, as for example the same inner key that makes A=re Sharp does also make B mi=flat, soe that ye half notes through=out ye Scale are Sharps to ye plain keyes below them and flats to ye plain keyes above them.

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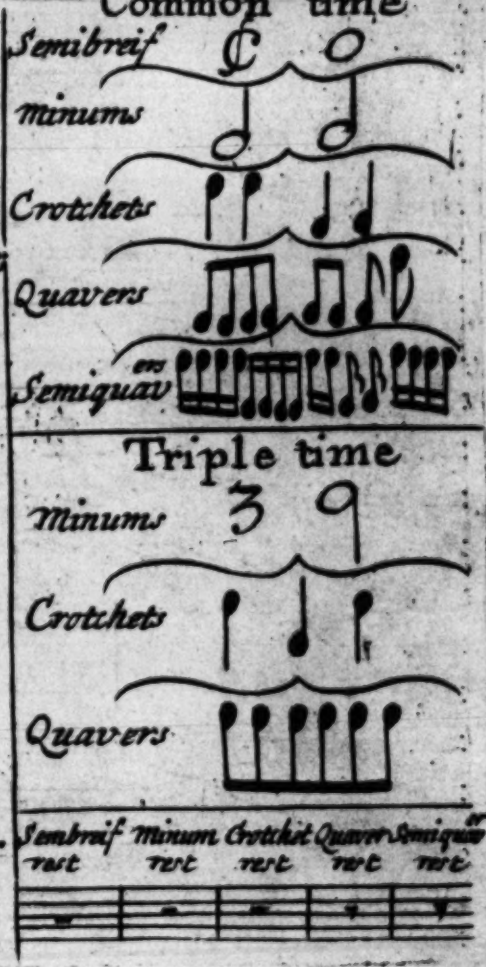
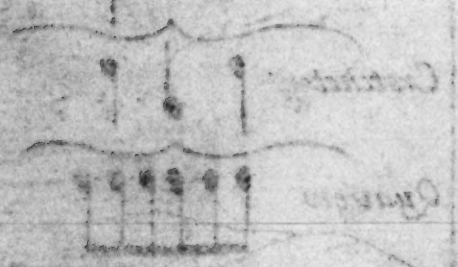
Example of time or length of Notes

There being nothing more difficult in Musick then playing of true time, tis therefore nessesary to be observ'd by all practitioners, of which there are two sorts, Common time, & Triple time, & is distingush'd by this C this ¢ or this ⊘ mark, ye first is a very slow movement, ye next a little faster, and ye last to brisk & airry time, & each of them has allways to ye length of one Semibreif in a barr, which is to be held in playing as long as you can moderatly tell four, by saying one, two, three, four, two Minums as long as one Semibreif, four Crotchets as long as two Minums, eight Quavers as long as four Crotchets, sixteen Semiquavers as long eight Quavers.

Triple time consists of either three or six Crotchets in a barr, and is to be known by this $\frac{3}{2}$ this $\frac{3}{1}$ this 3 or this $\frac{6}{4}$ marke, to the first there is three Minums in a barr, and is commonly play'd very slow, the second has three Crotchets in a barr, and they are to be play'd slow, the third has ye same as ye former but is play'd faster, ye last has six Crotchets in a barr & is Commonly to brisk tunes as Iiggs and Paspys, when there is a prick or dott following any Note it is to be held half as long again as ye Note it self is, lett it be Semibreif, Minum, Crotchet or Quaver, when you see a Semibreif rest you are to leave of playing so long as you can be in counting four, a Minum rest so long as you tell two, and a Crotchet one, and so in proportion a Quaver and Semiquaver you may know how these rests are marked in ye five lines under the example of time.



Triple-time



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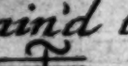
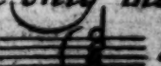
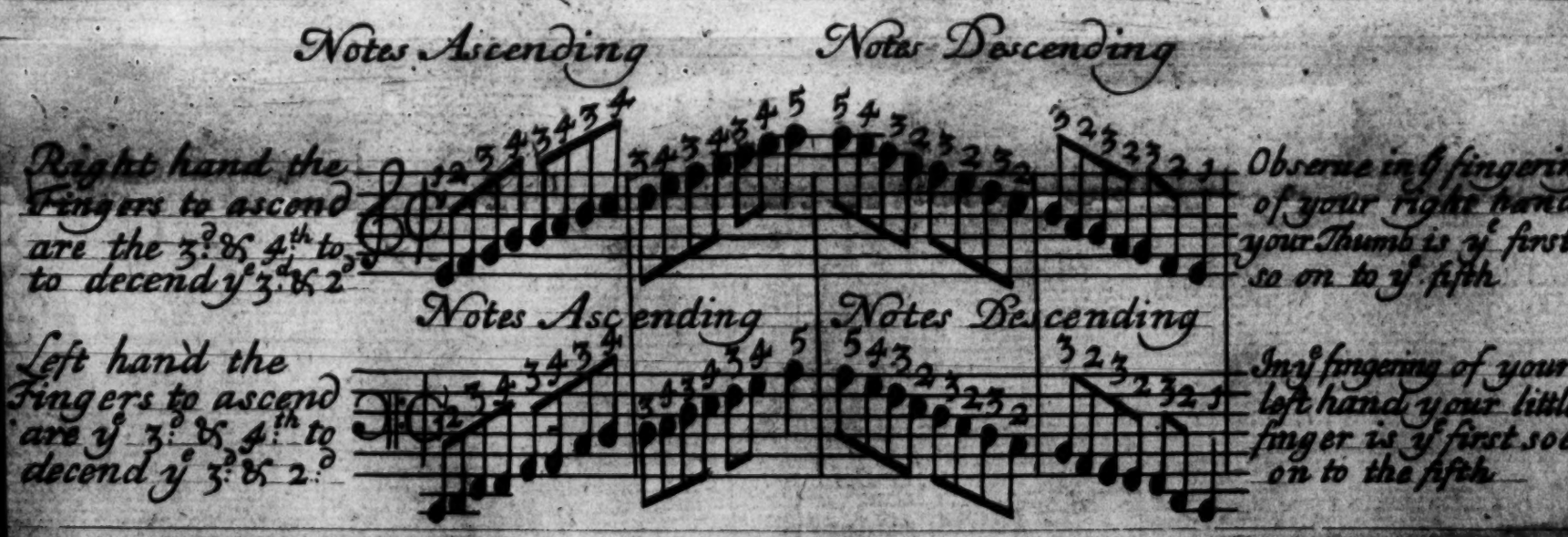
Rules for Graces

A Shake is mark'd thus explaind thus a beat mark'd thus explaind thus a plain note & Shake thus explain'd thus a fore fall mark'd thus explain'd thus  a back fall mark'd thus explain'd thus a mark for the turn thus explain'd thus the mark for y^e Shake turn'd thus explaind thus observe that you allway's Shake from the note above and beat from ye note or half note below, according to the key you play in, and for ye plain note and Shake if it be a note without a point you are to hold half the quantity of it plain, and that upon y^e note above that which is mark'd and Shake the other half, but if it be a note with a point to it you are to hold all the note plain and Shake only the point, a Slur is mark'd thus explain'd thus the mark for y^e battery thus  explaind thus the bass Clift mark'd thus the Tenner Clift thus the Treble Clift thus a barr is mark'd thus at y^e end of every time that it may be the more easy to keep time, a Double bar is mark'd thus and set down at ye end of every Strain, which imports you must play ye Strain twice, a repeat is mark'd thus and Signifies you must repeat from y^e note to y^e end of the Strain or lesson, to know what key a tune is in, observe y^e last note or Close of y^e tune, for by that note y^e key is nam'd, all Round O end with y^e first strain.



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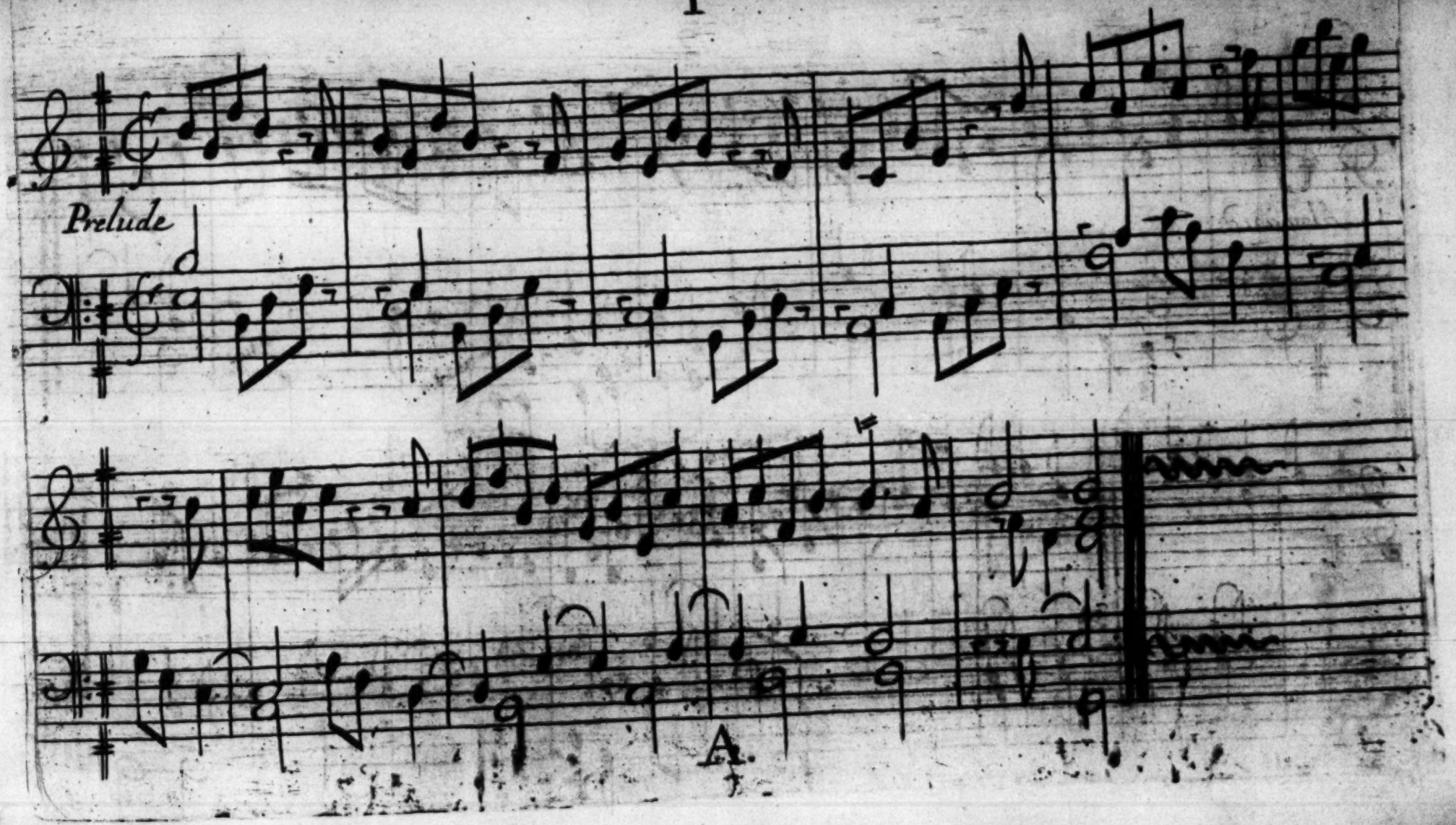
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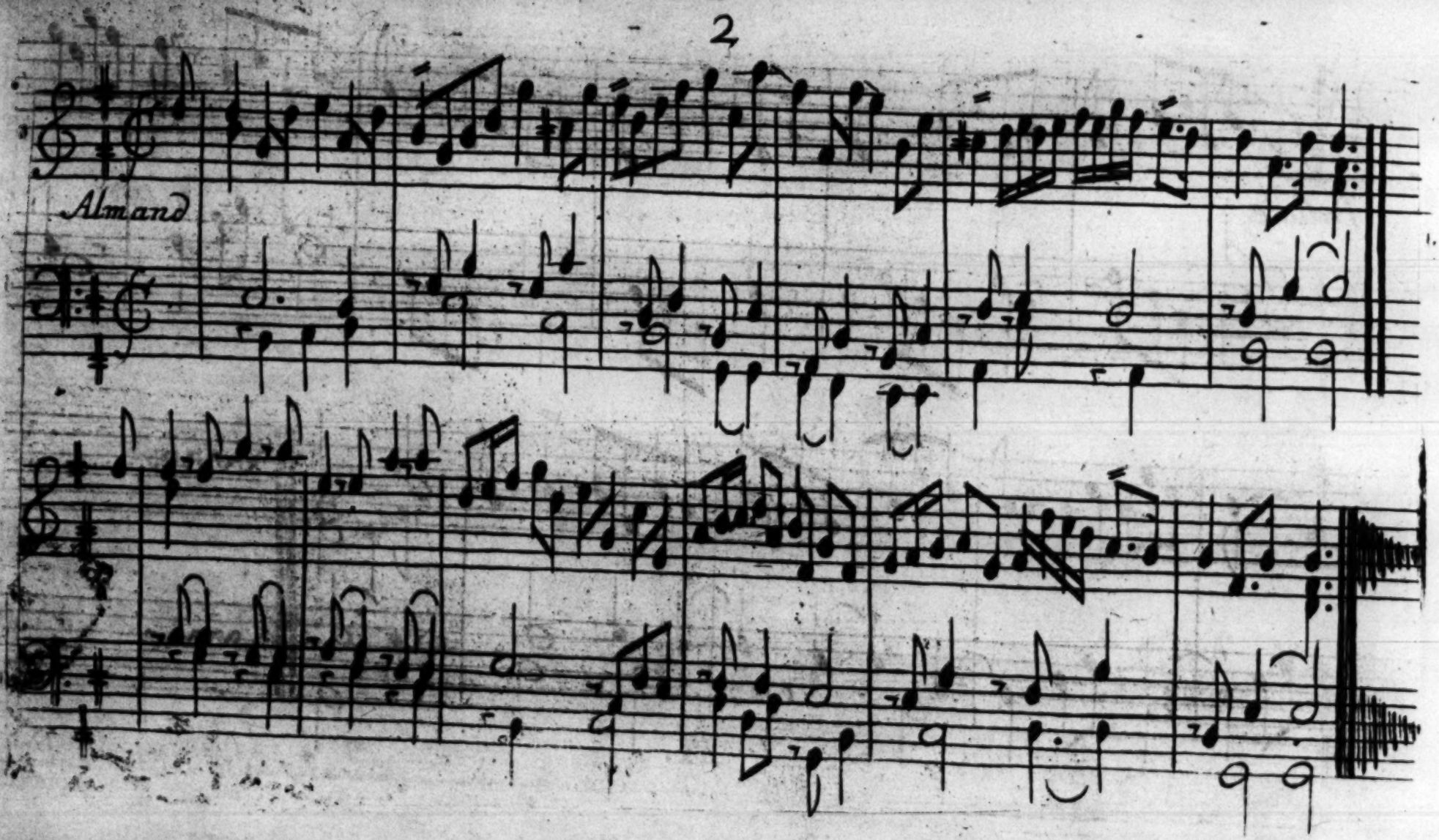
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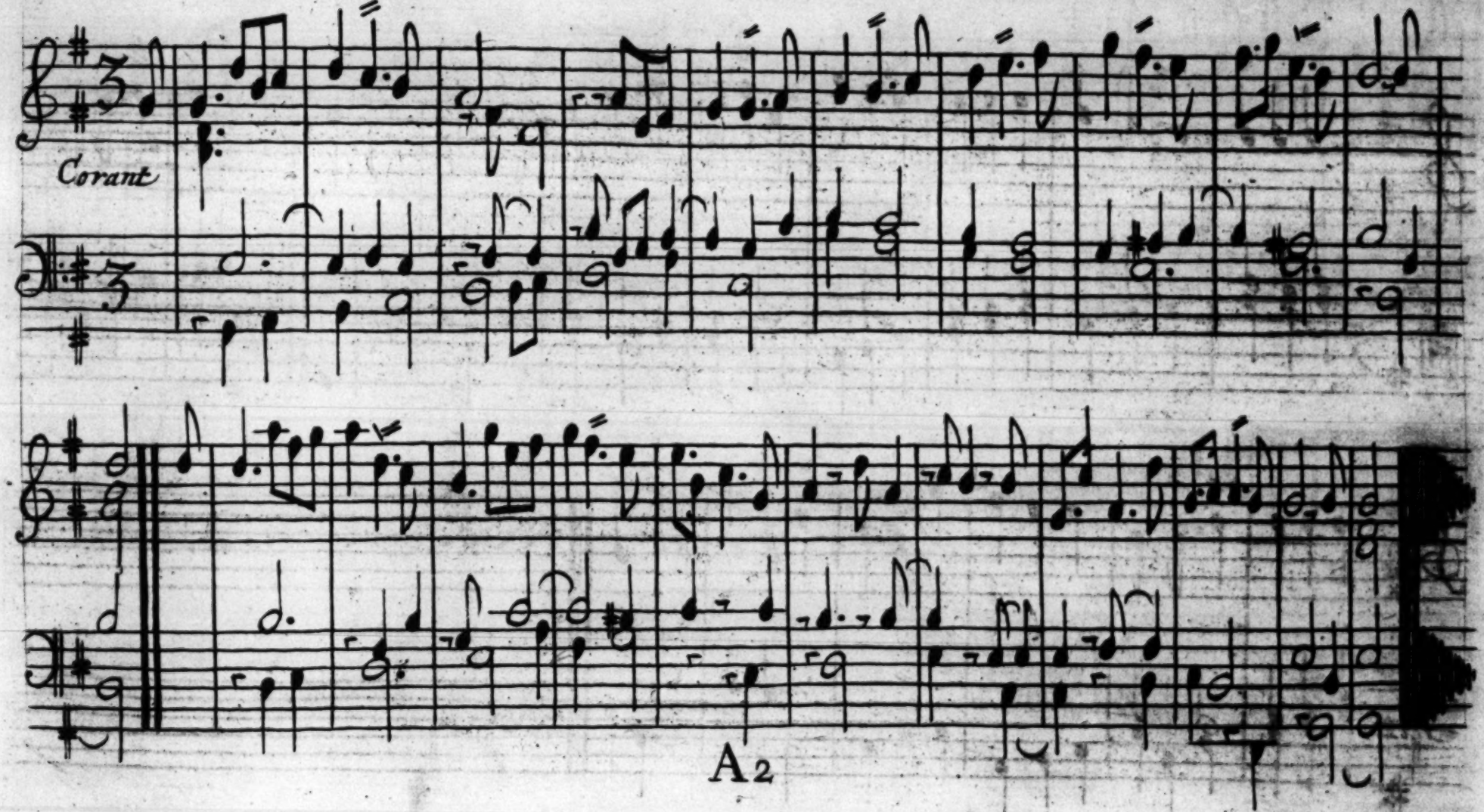
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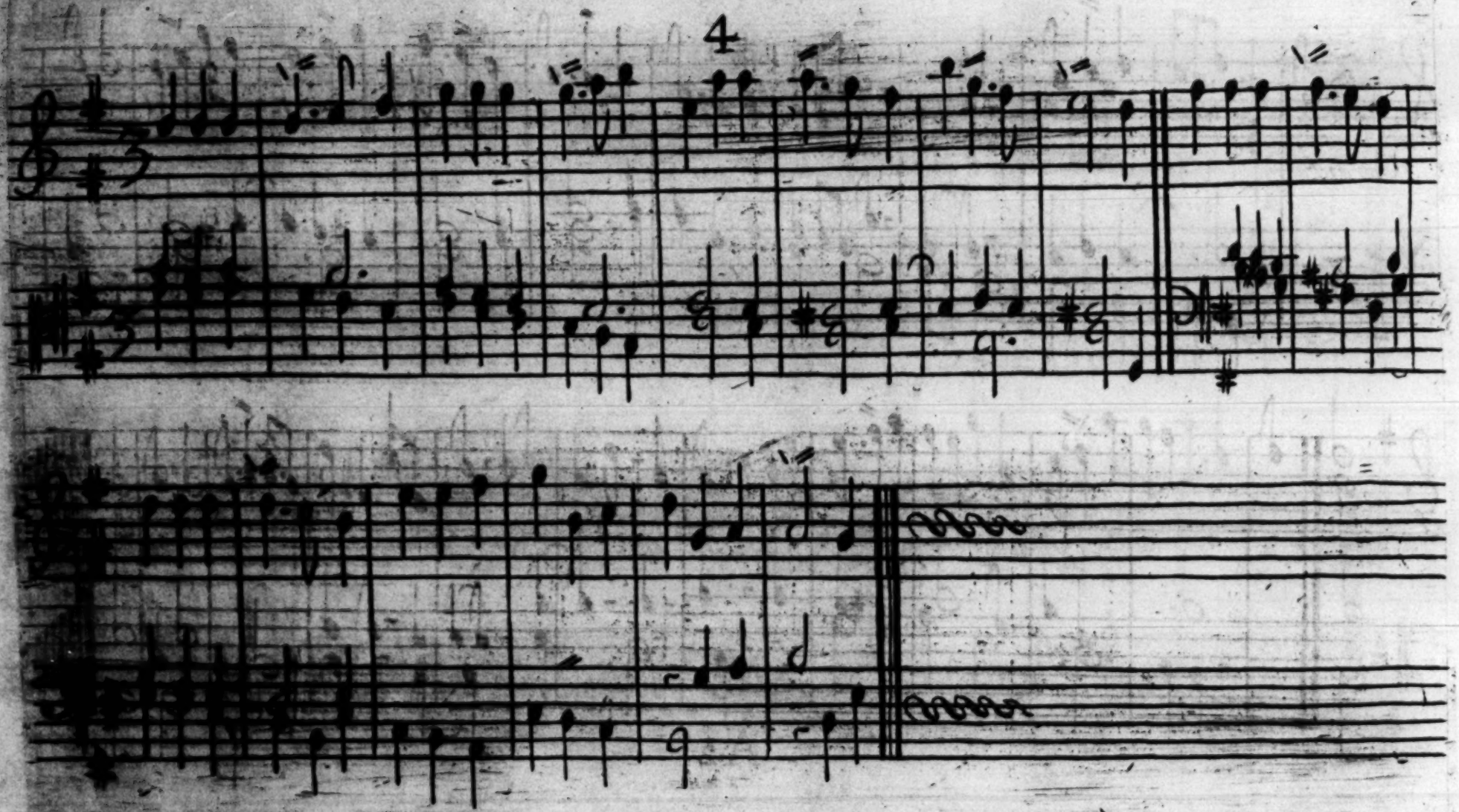

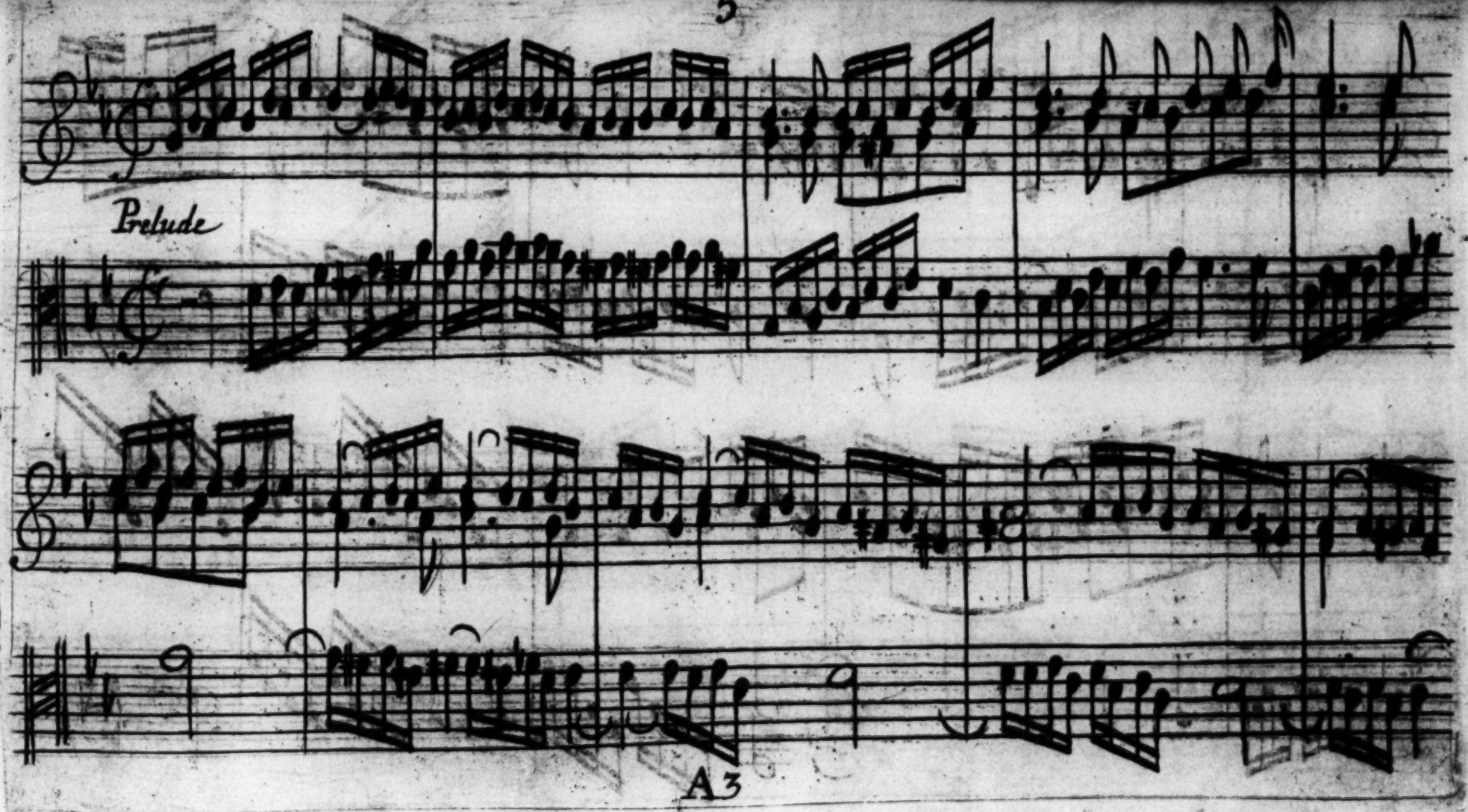
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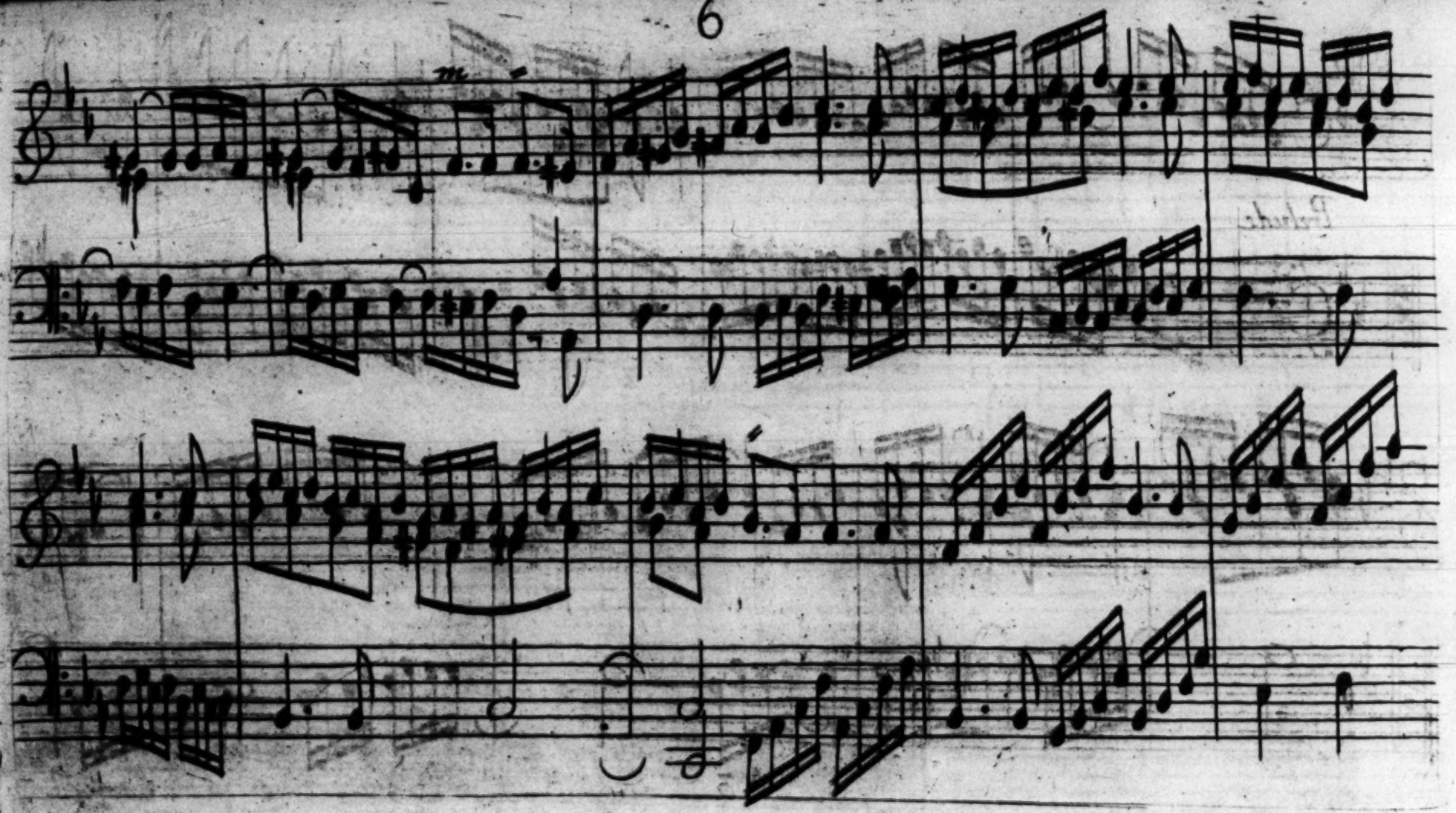

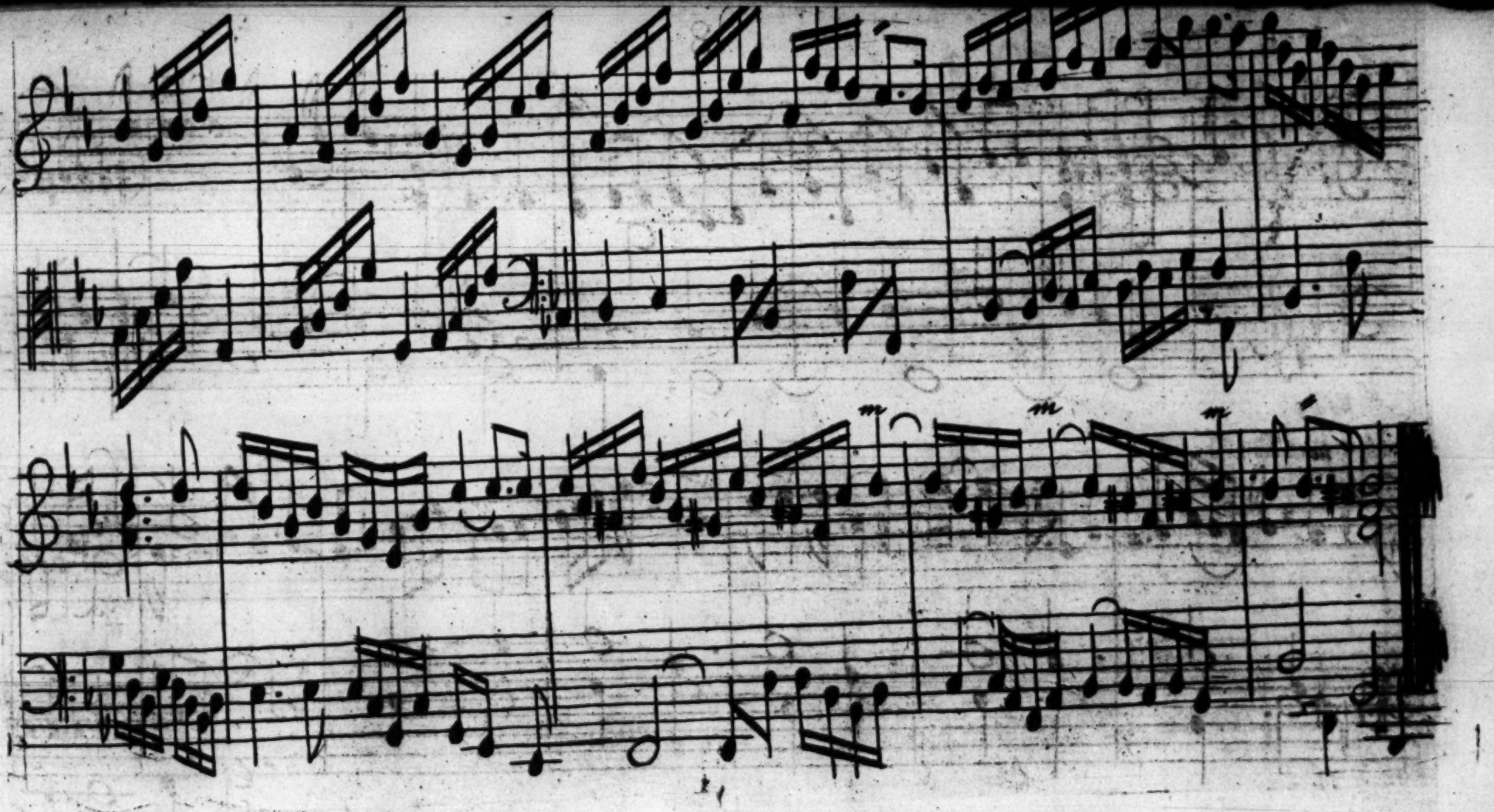

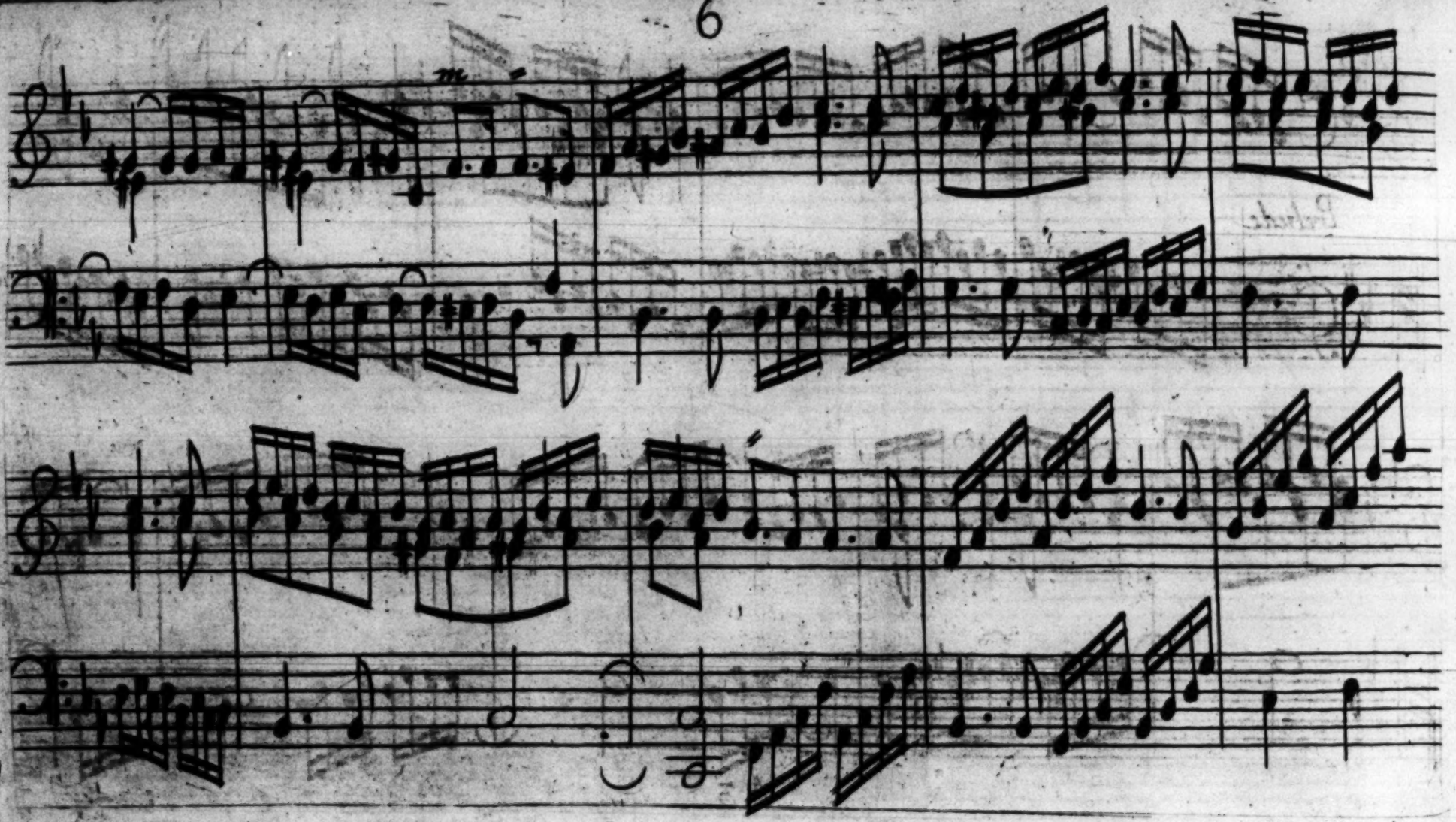

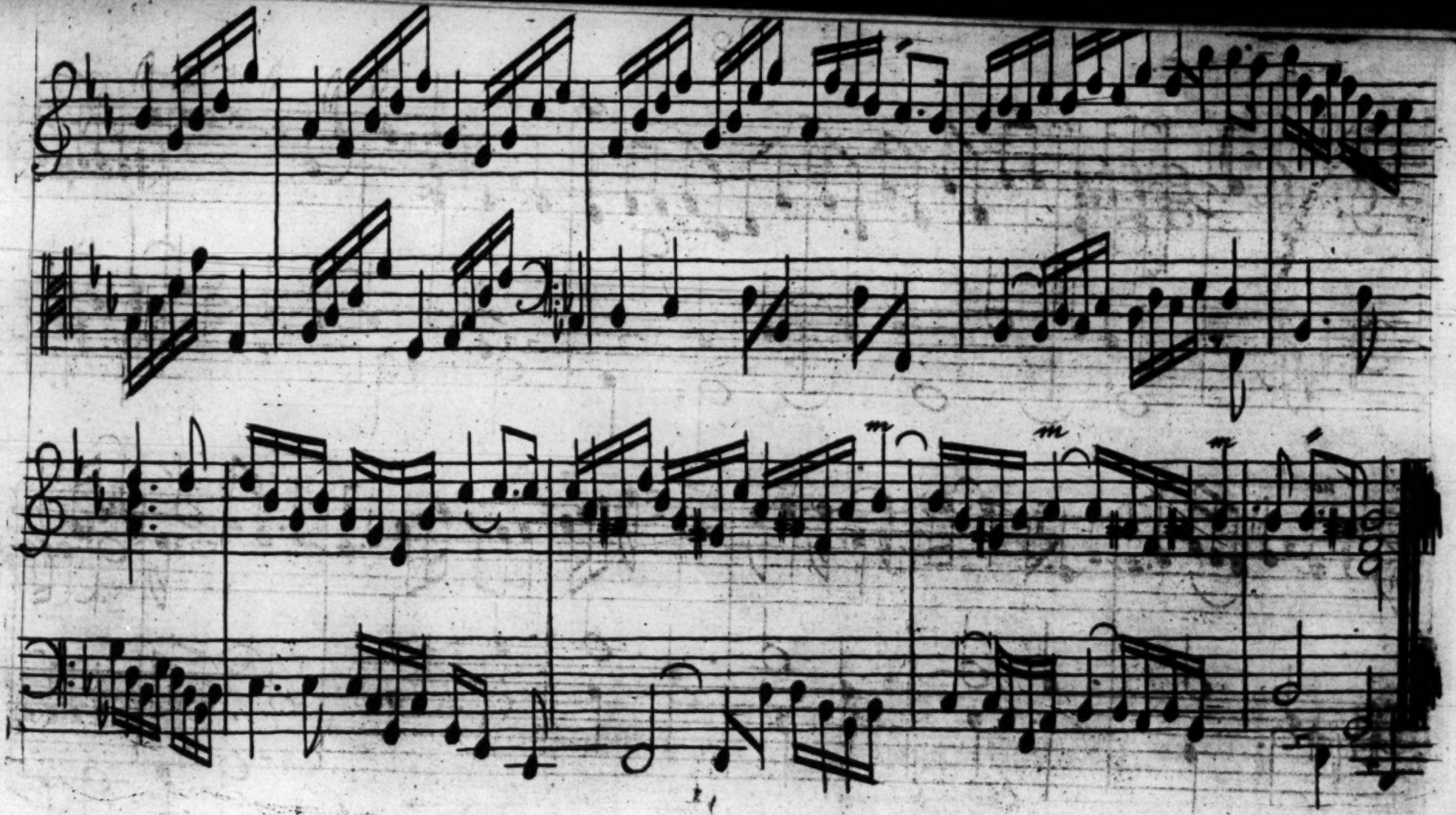

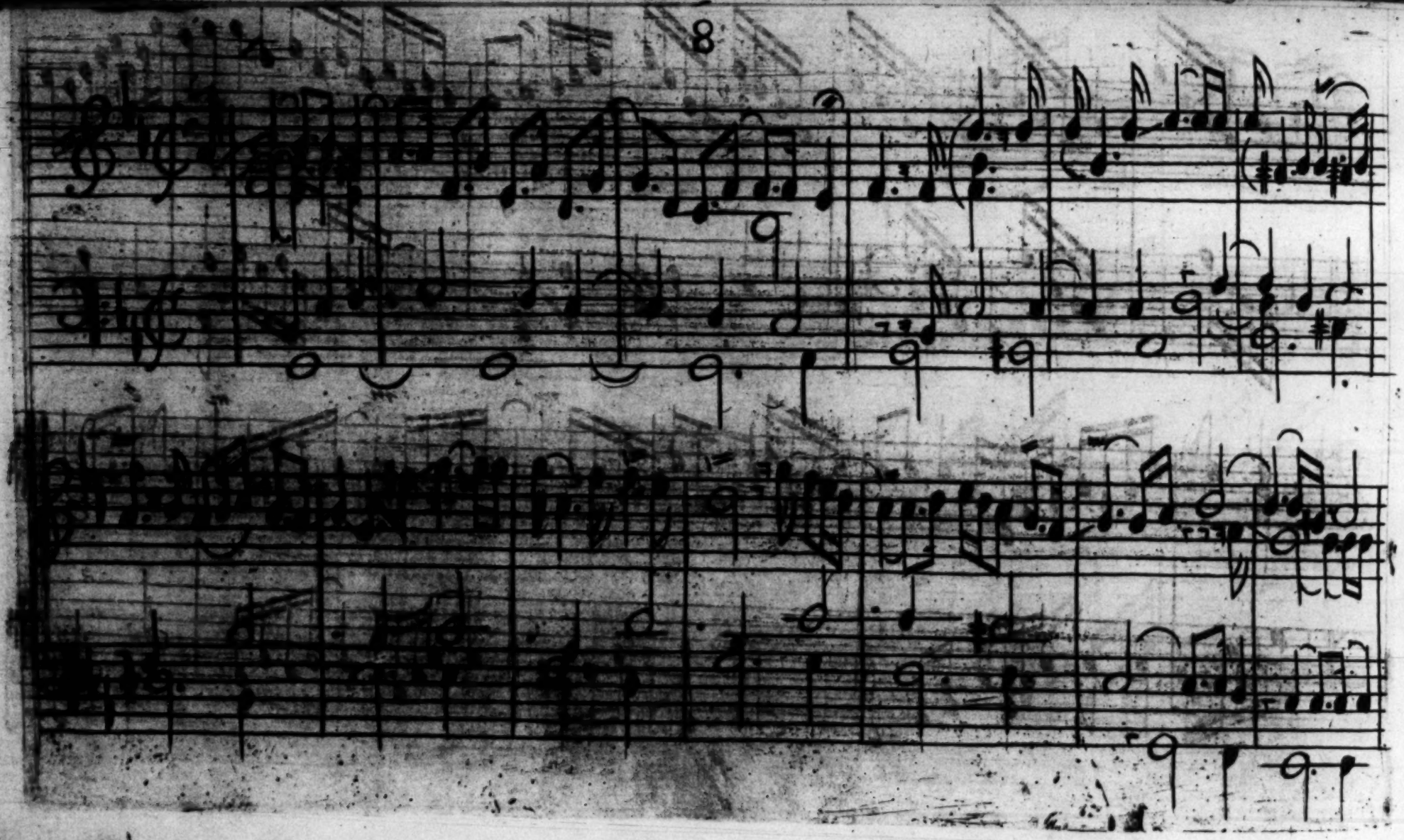

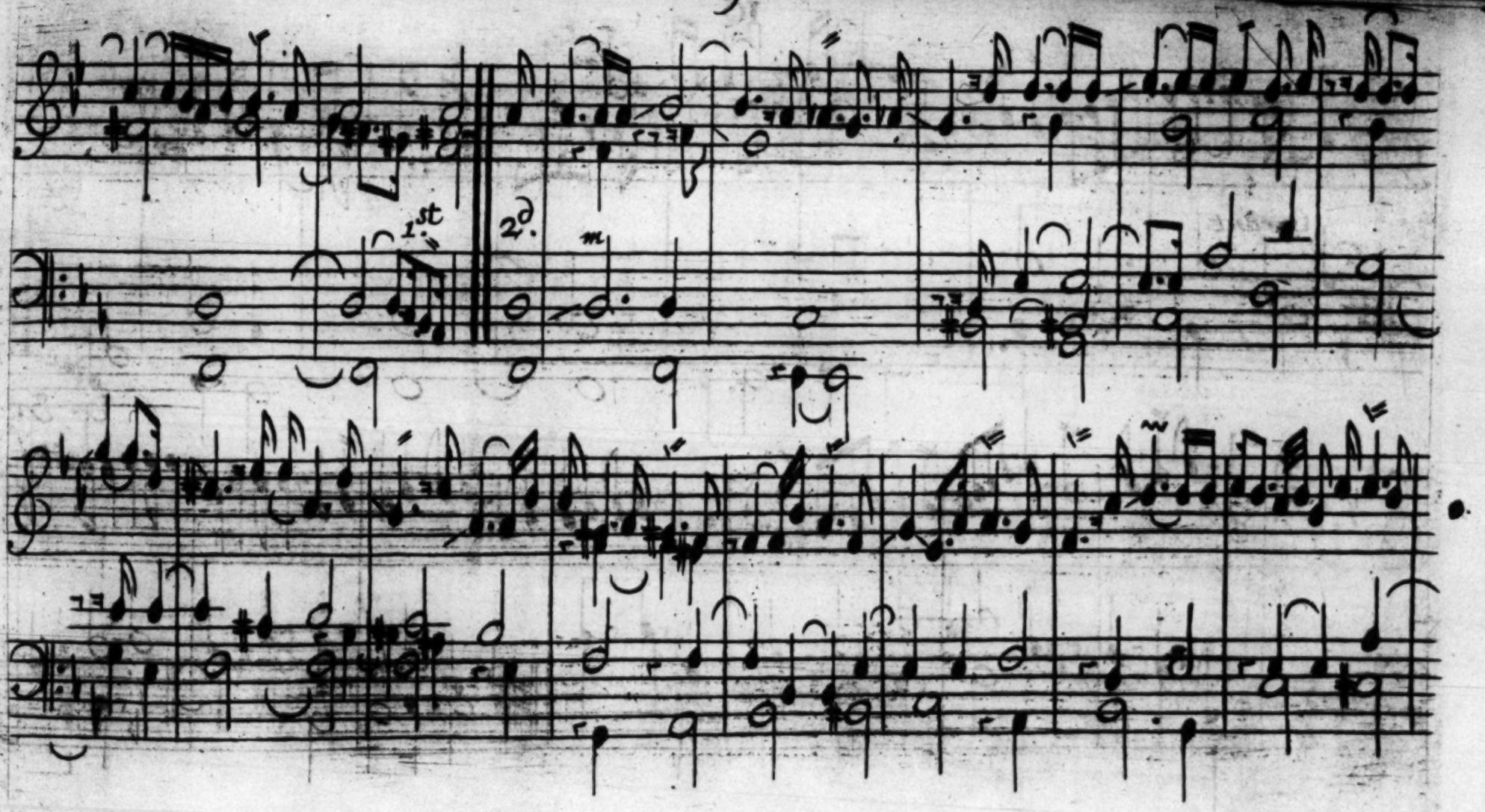
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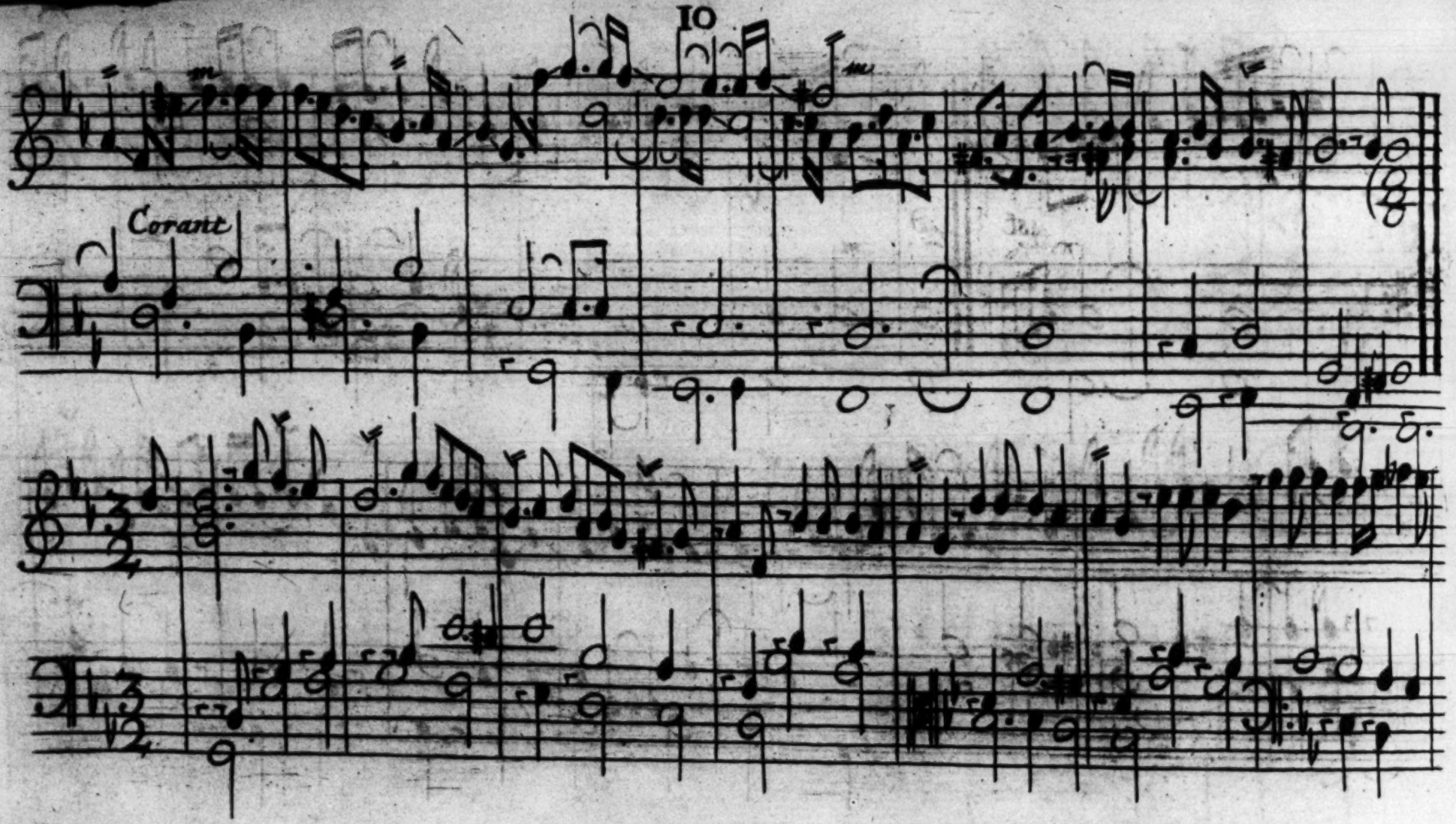
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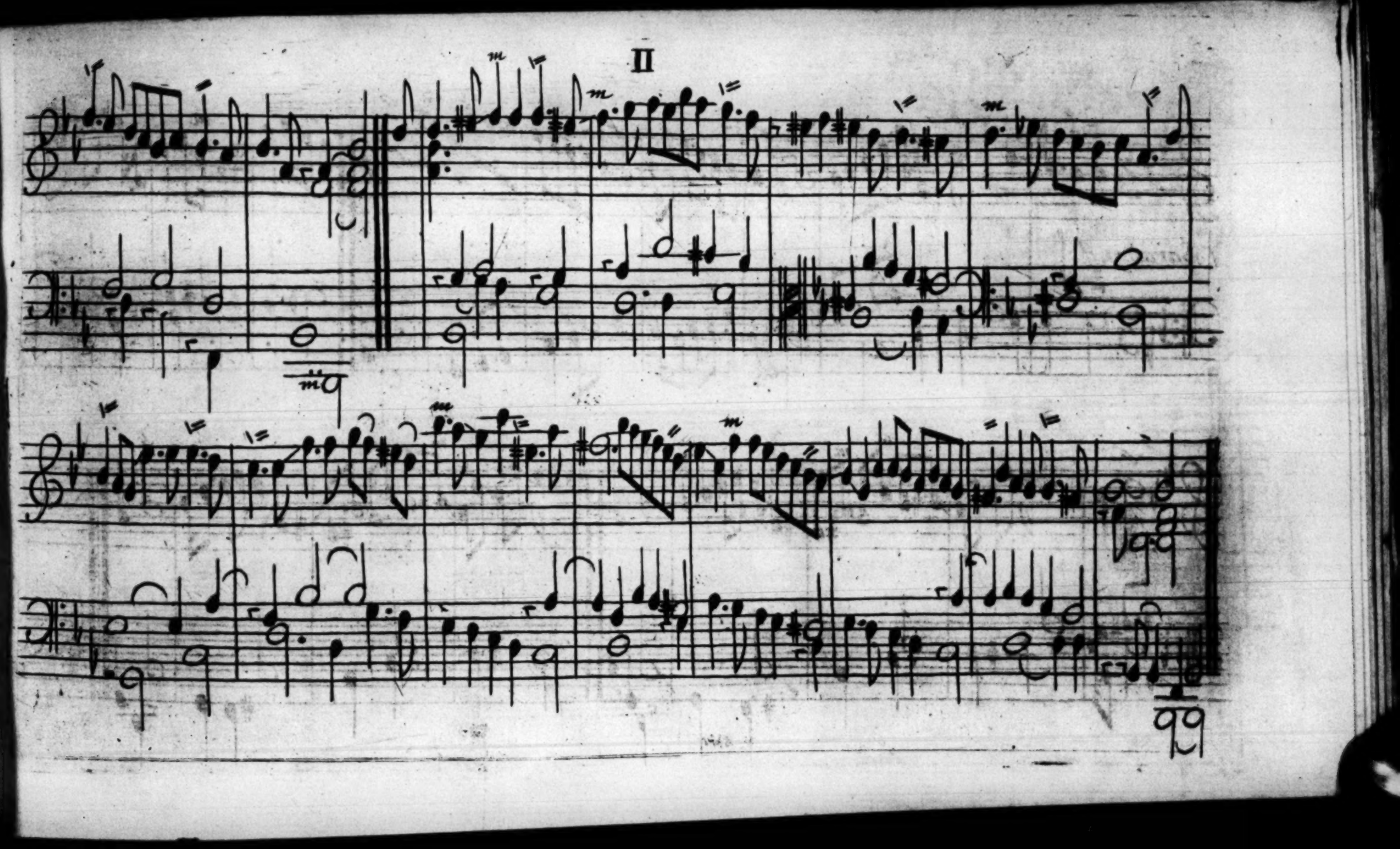
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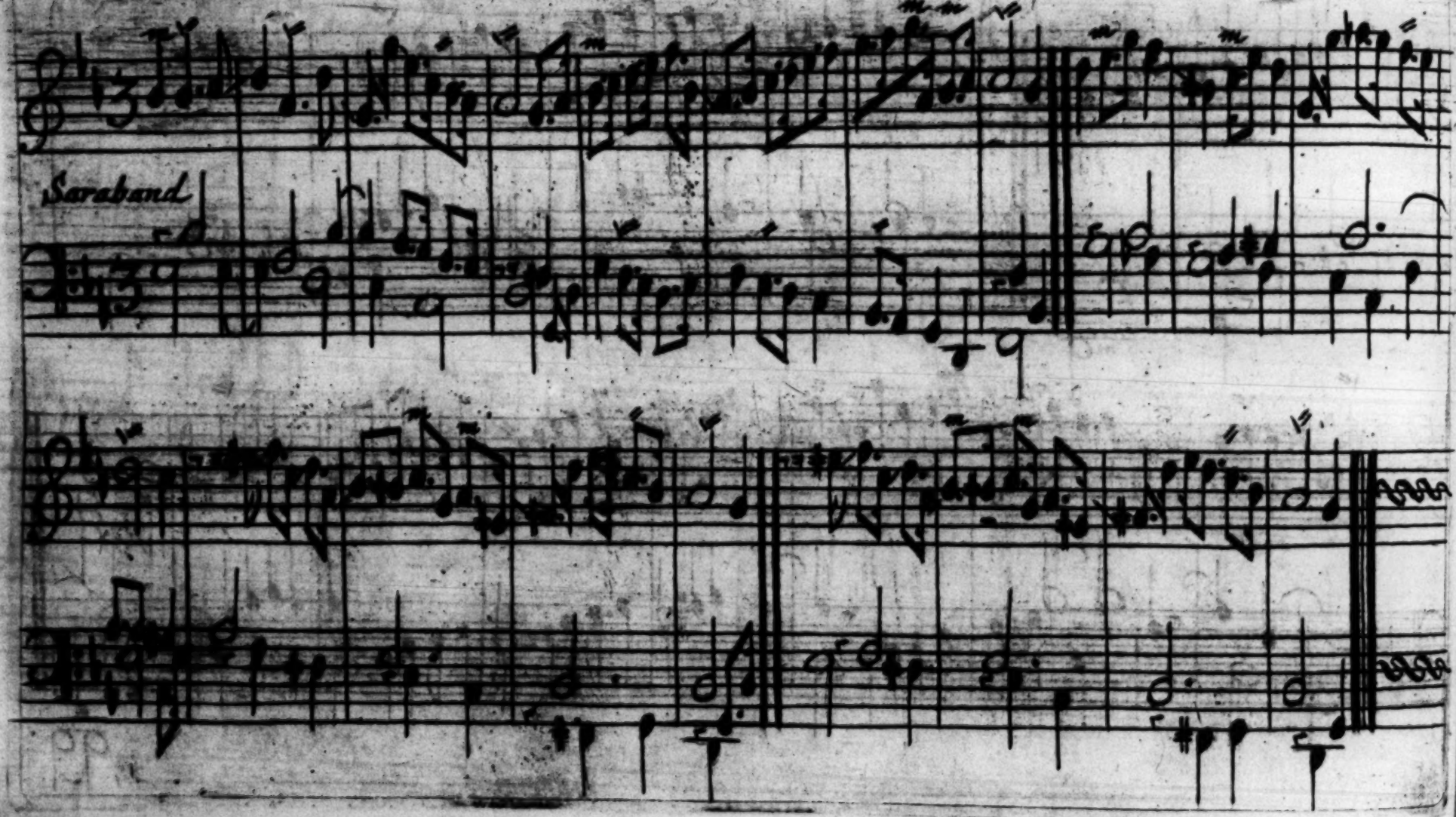
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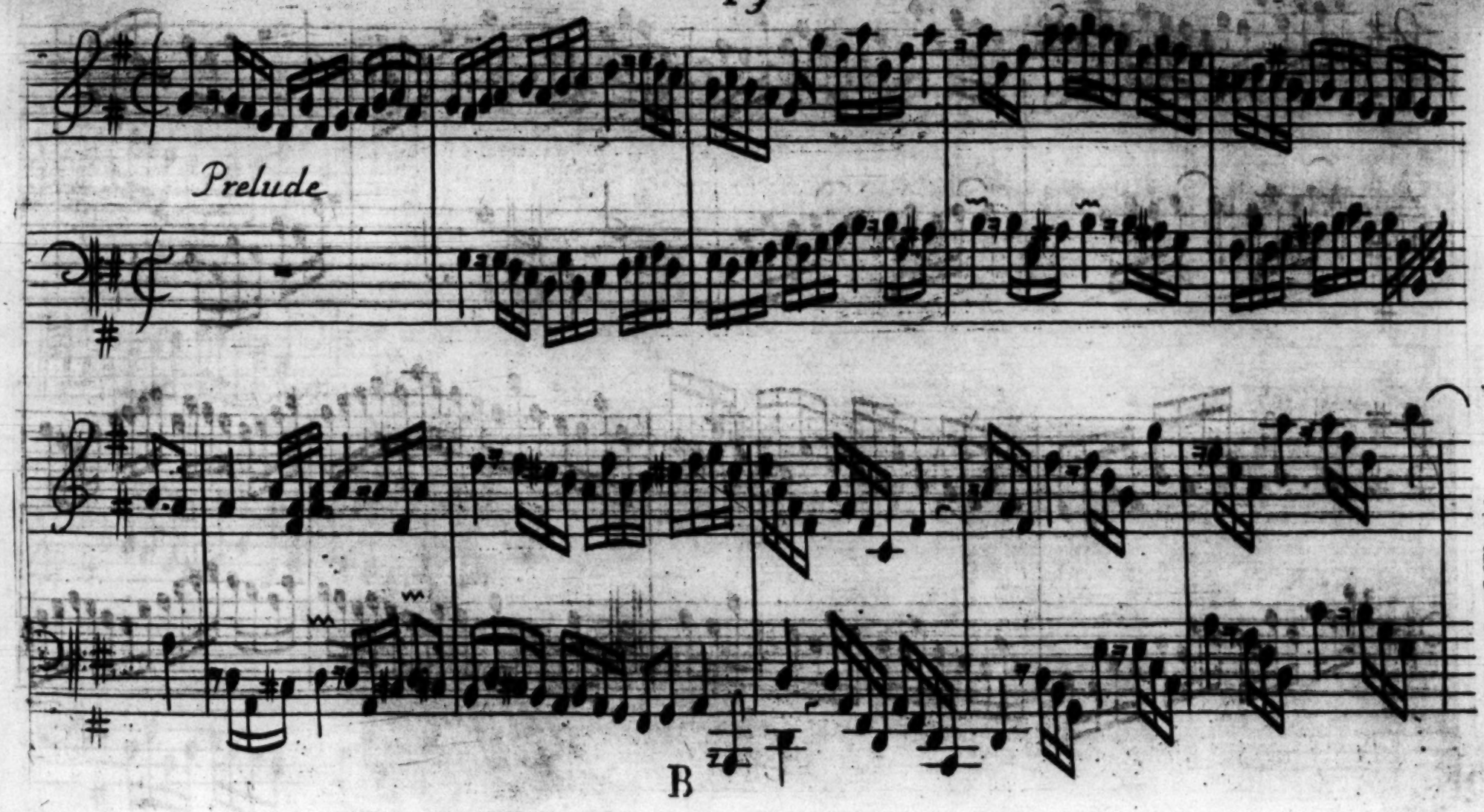
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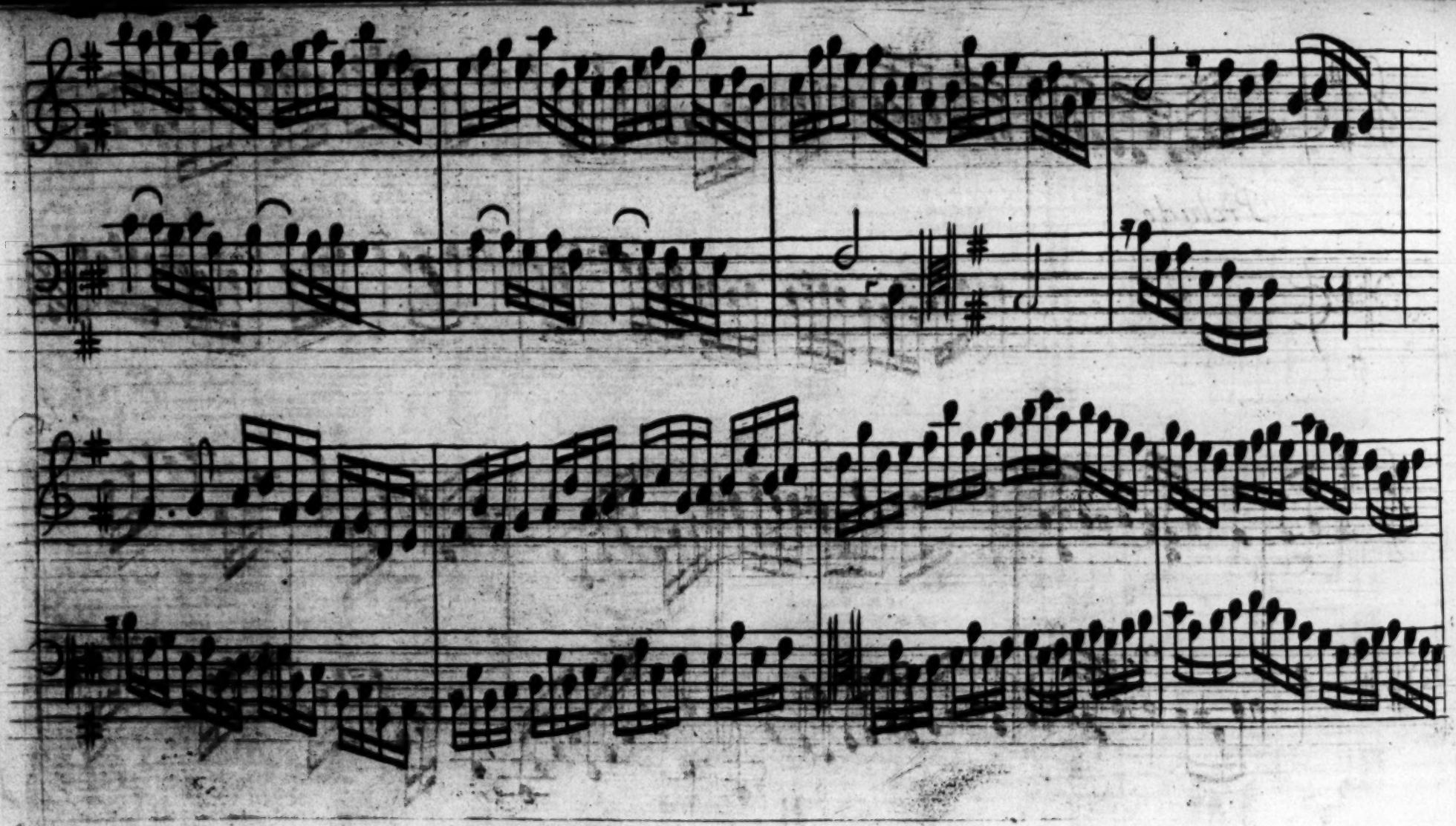

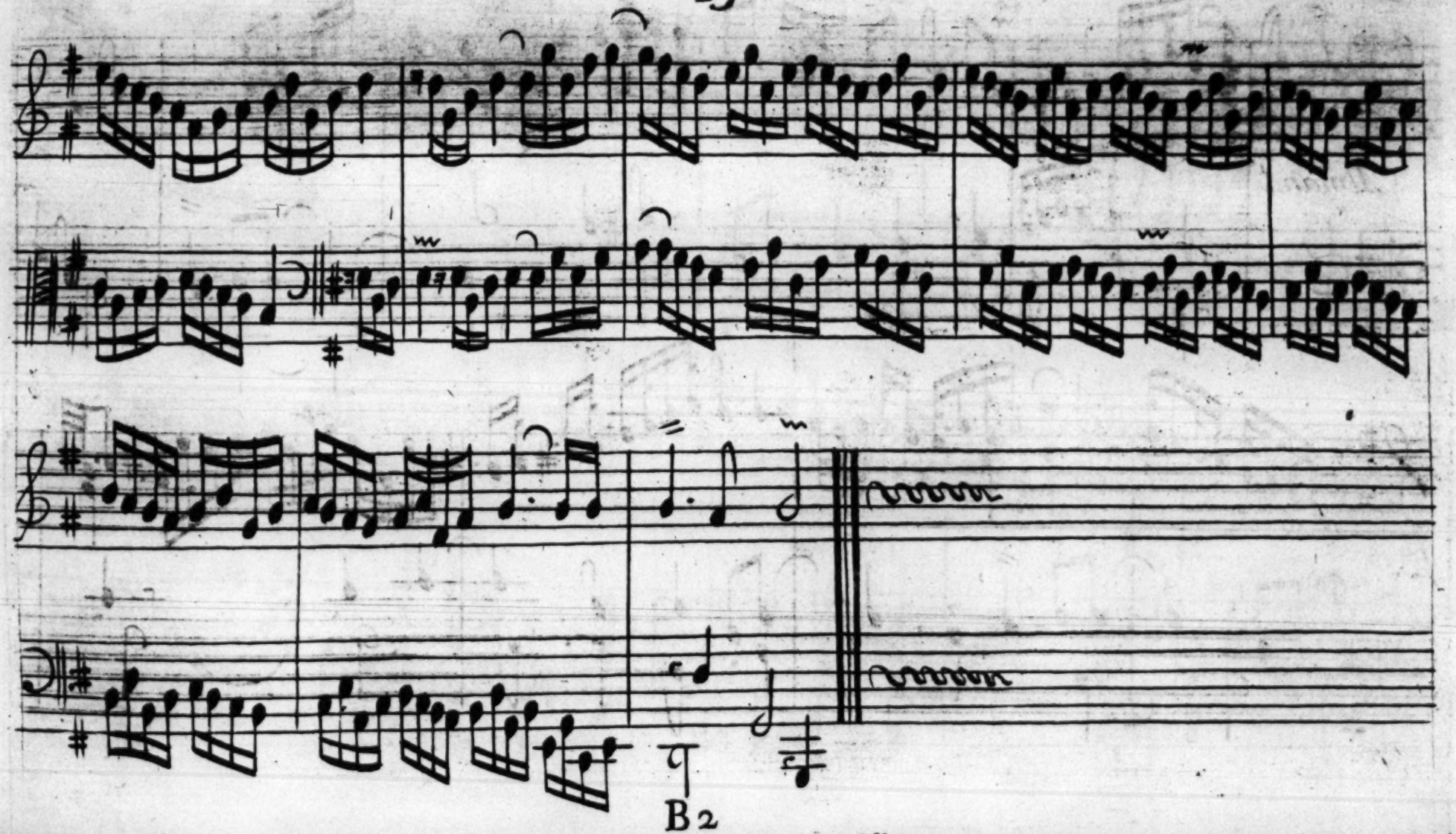

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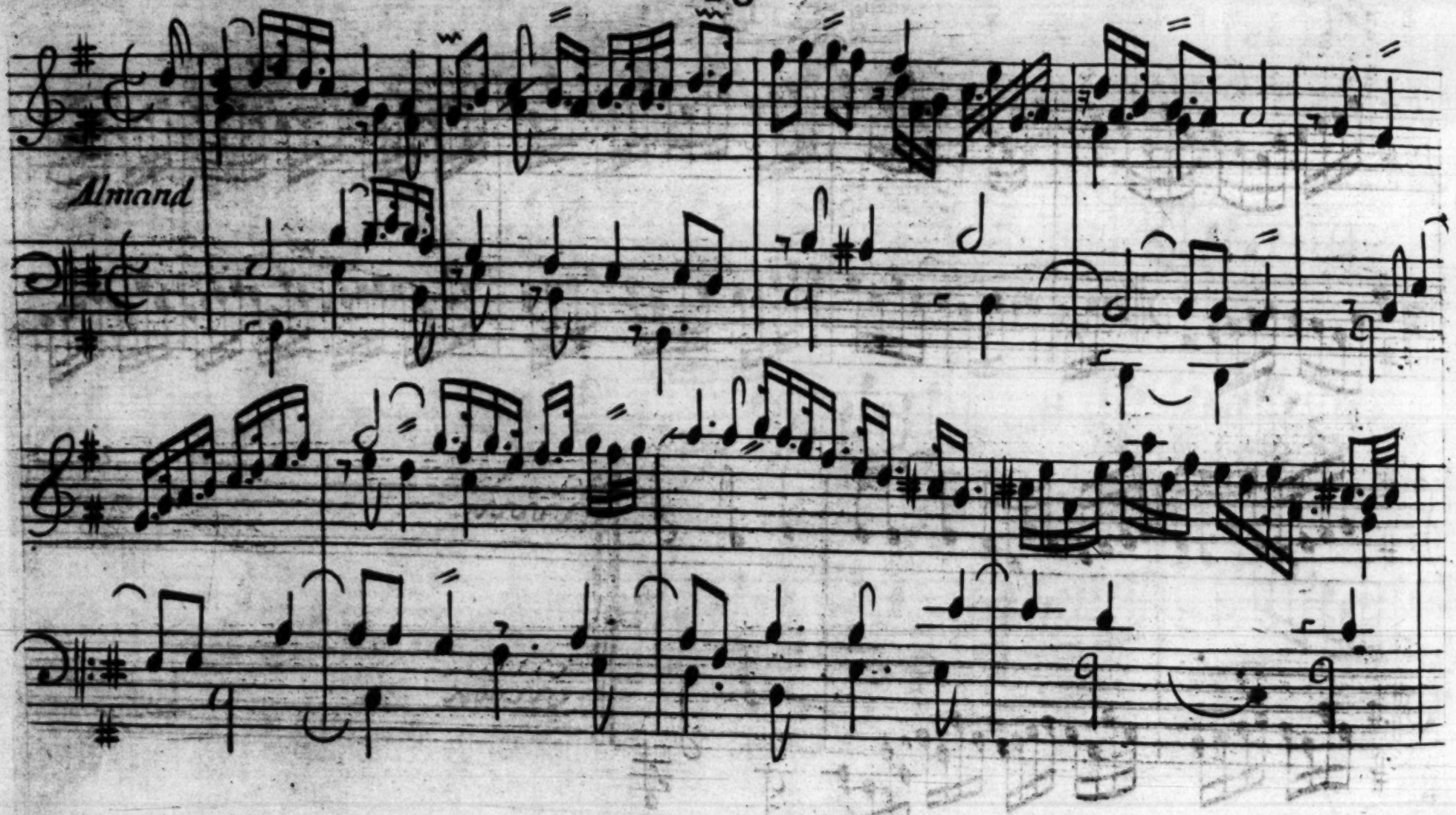
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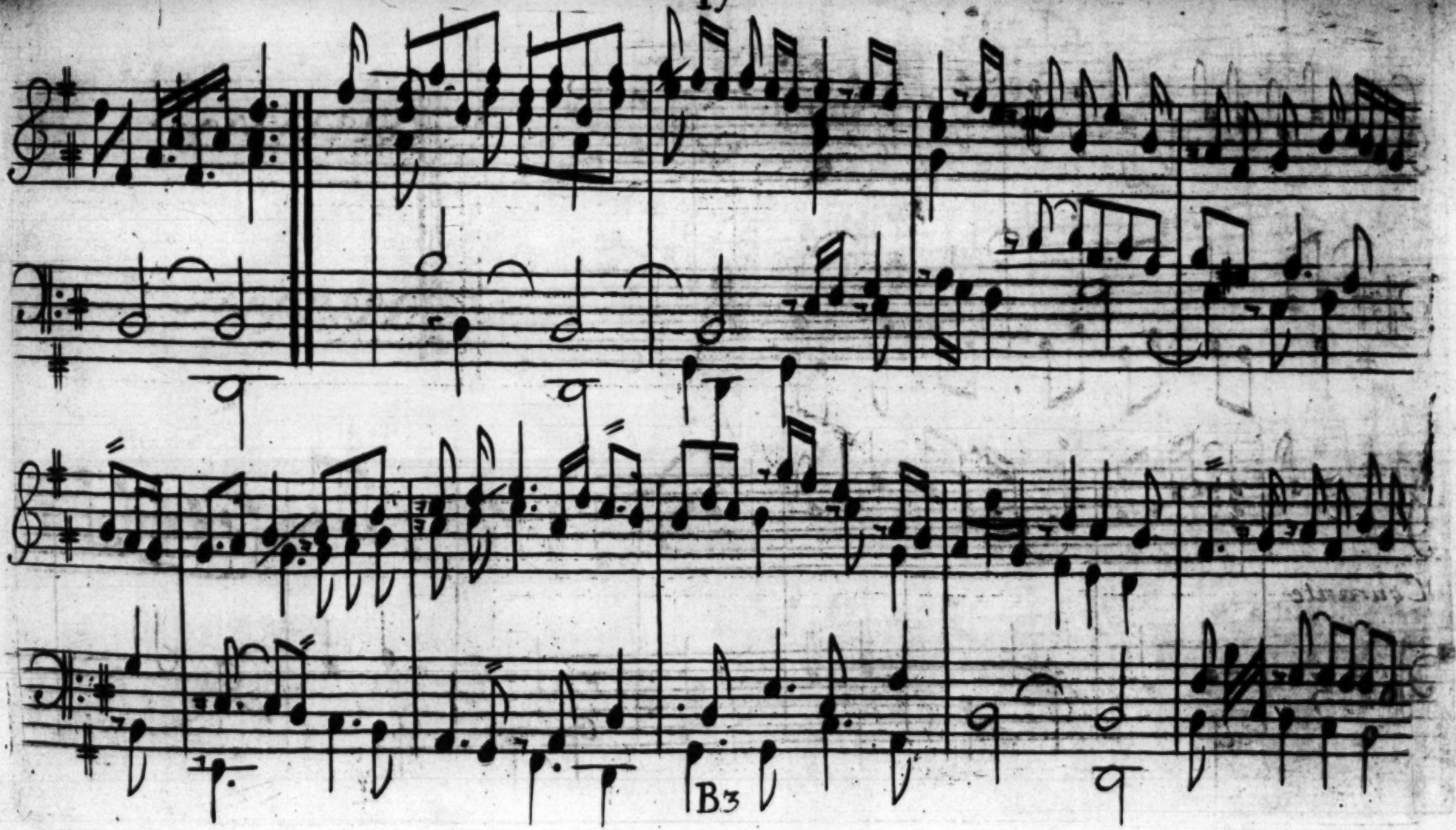
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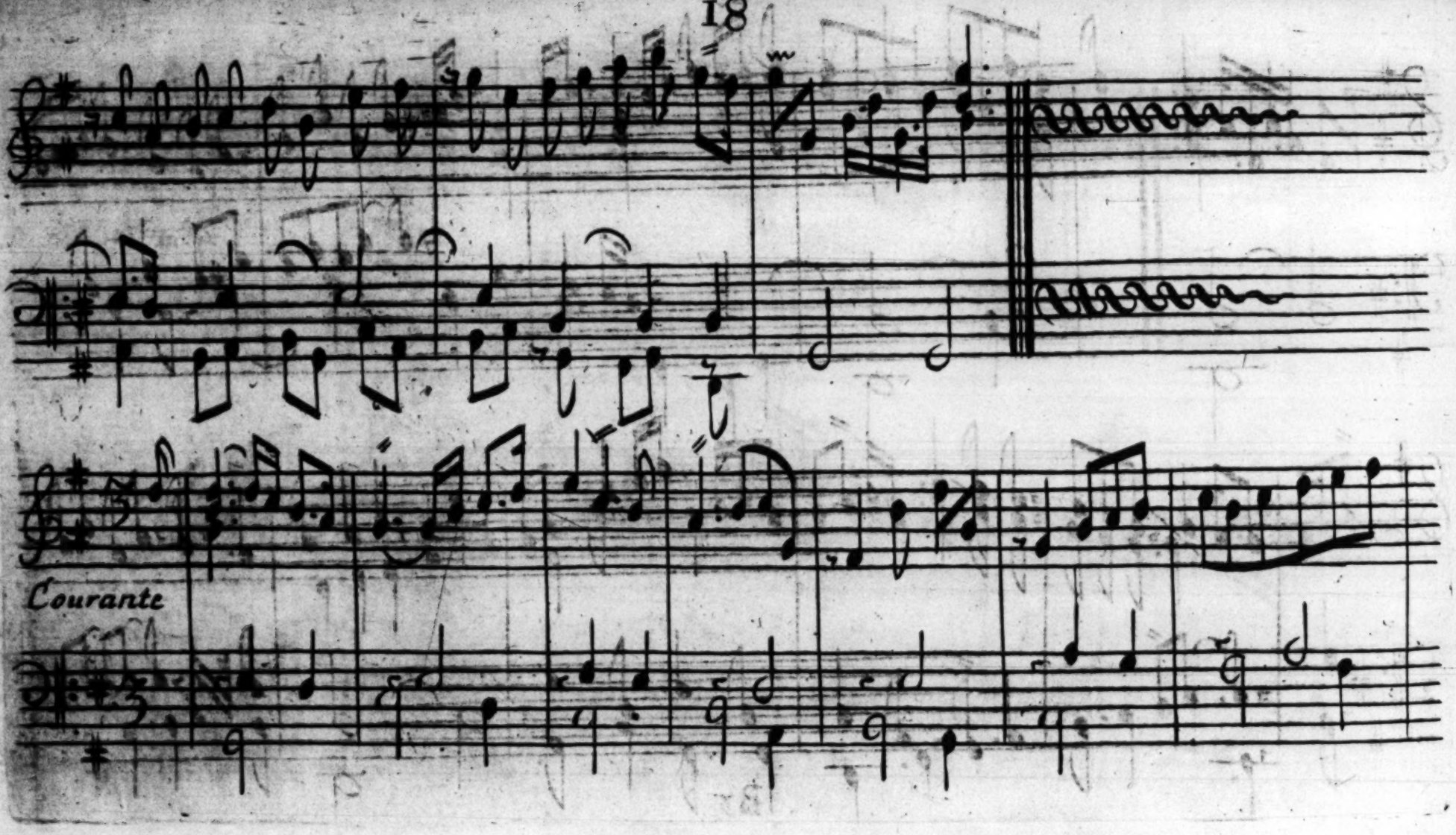
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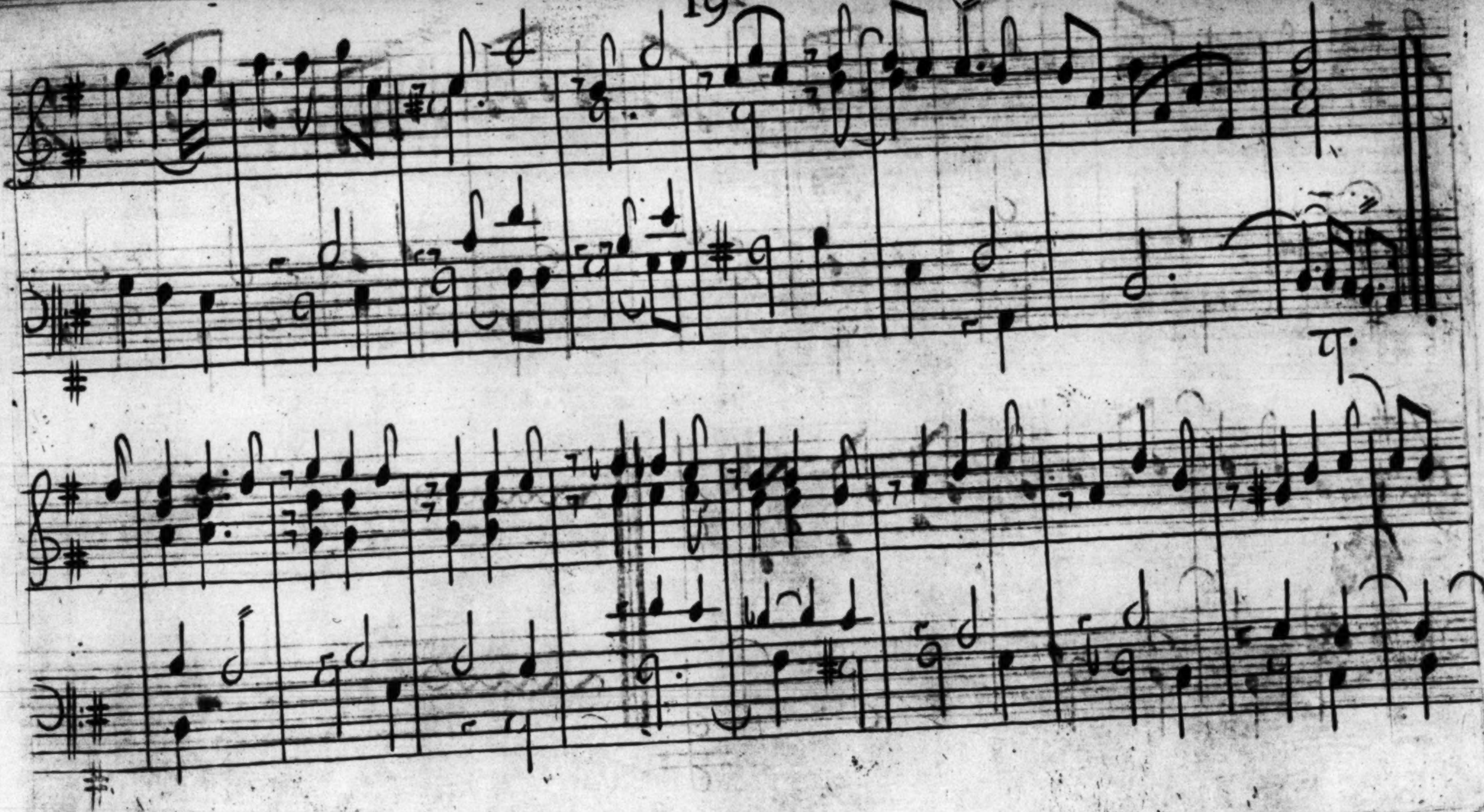

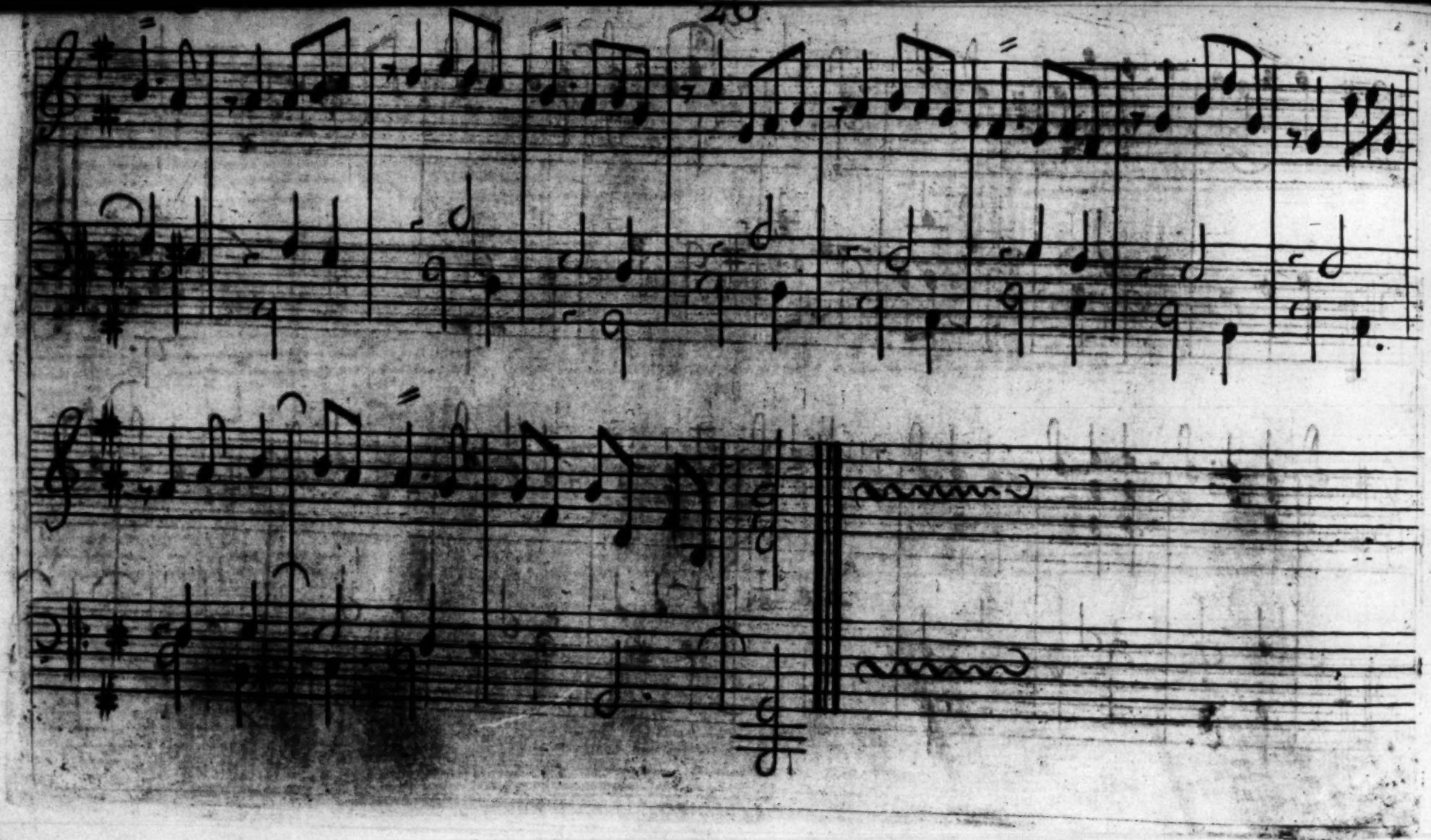

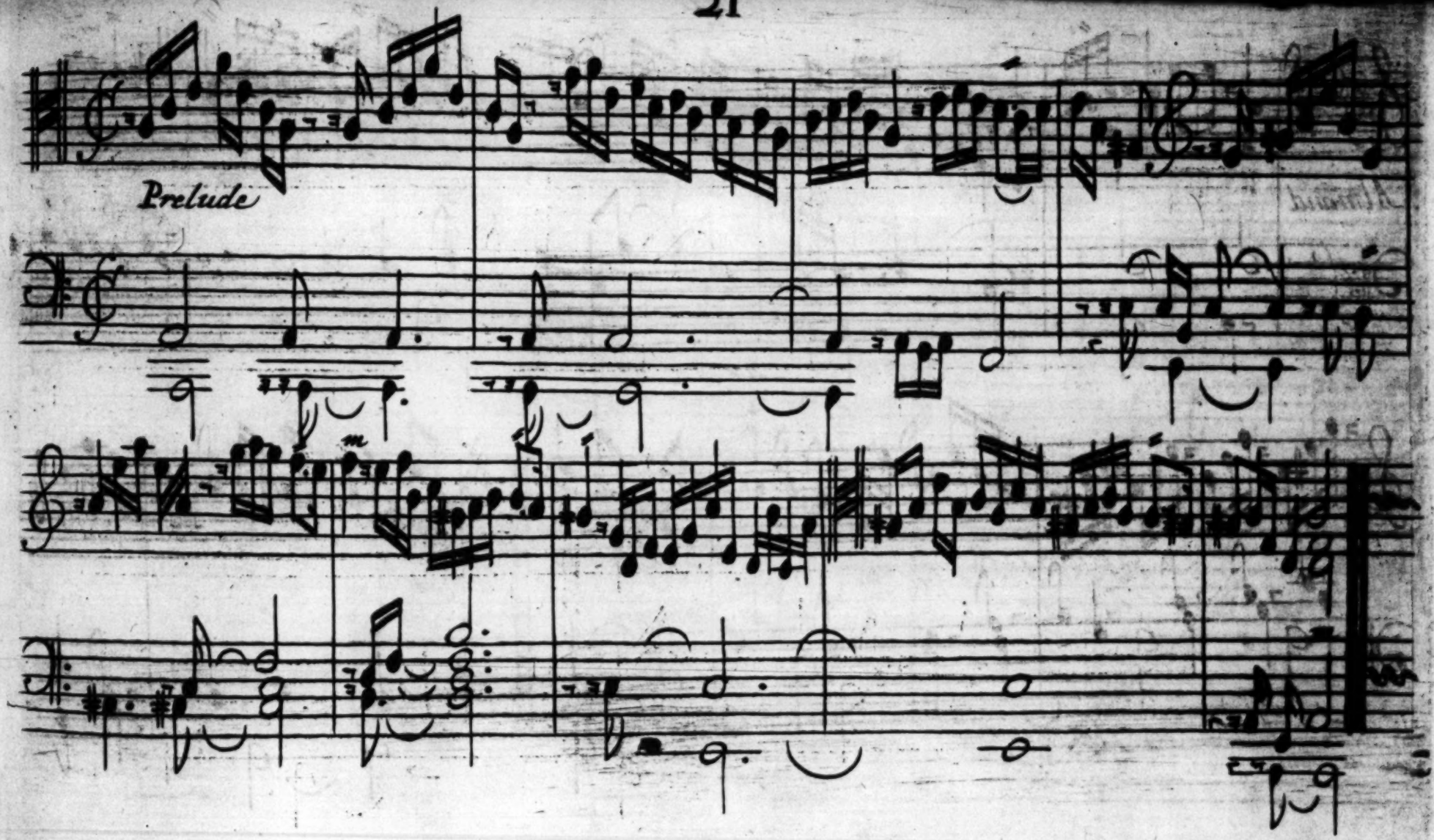
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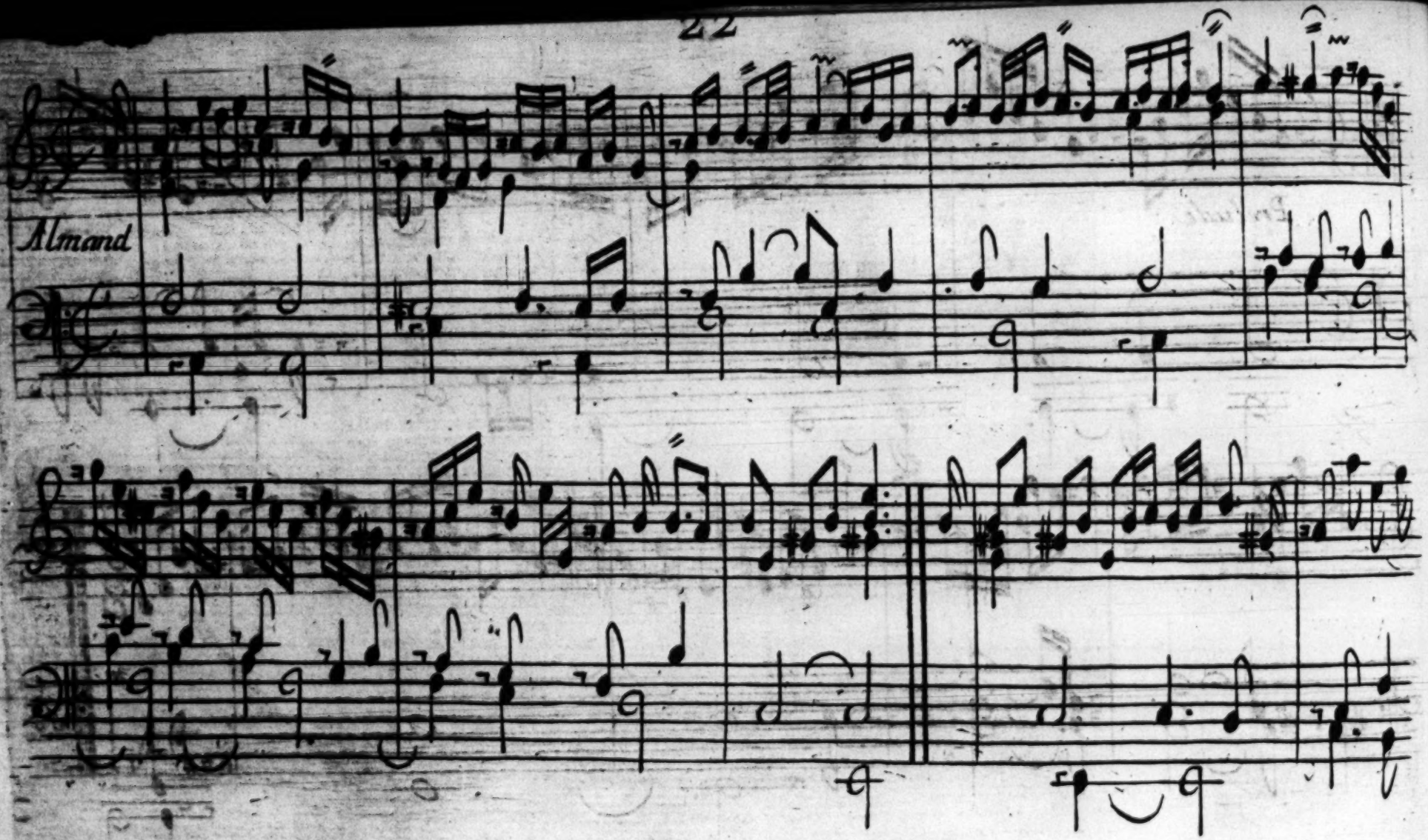
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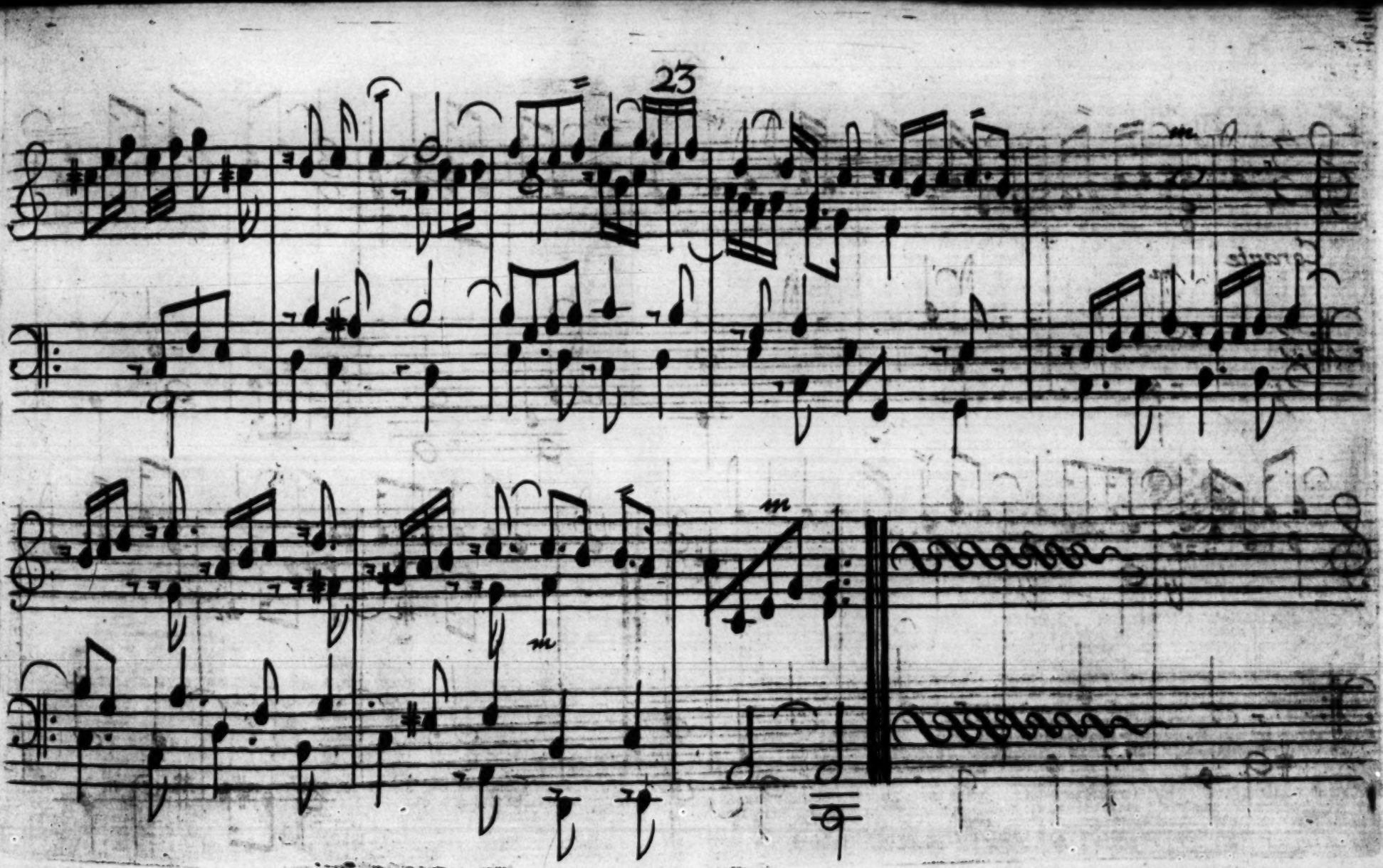
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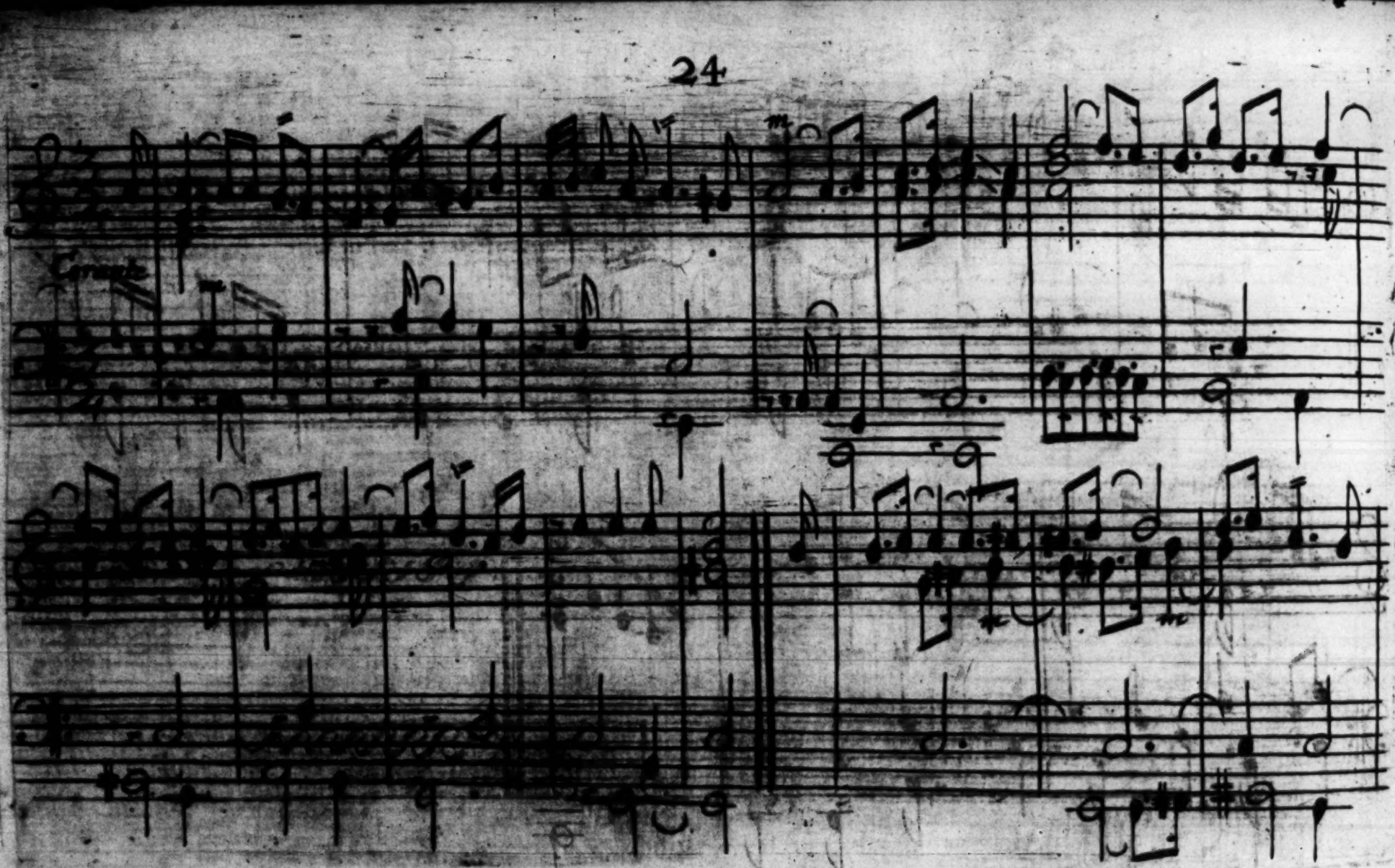

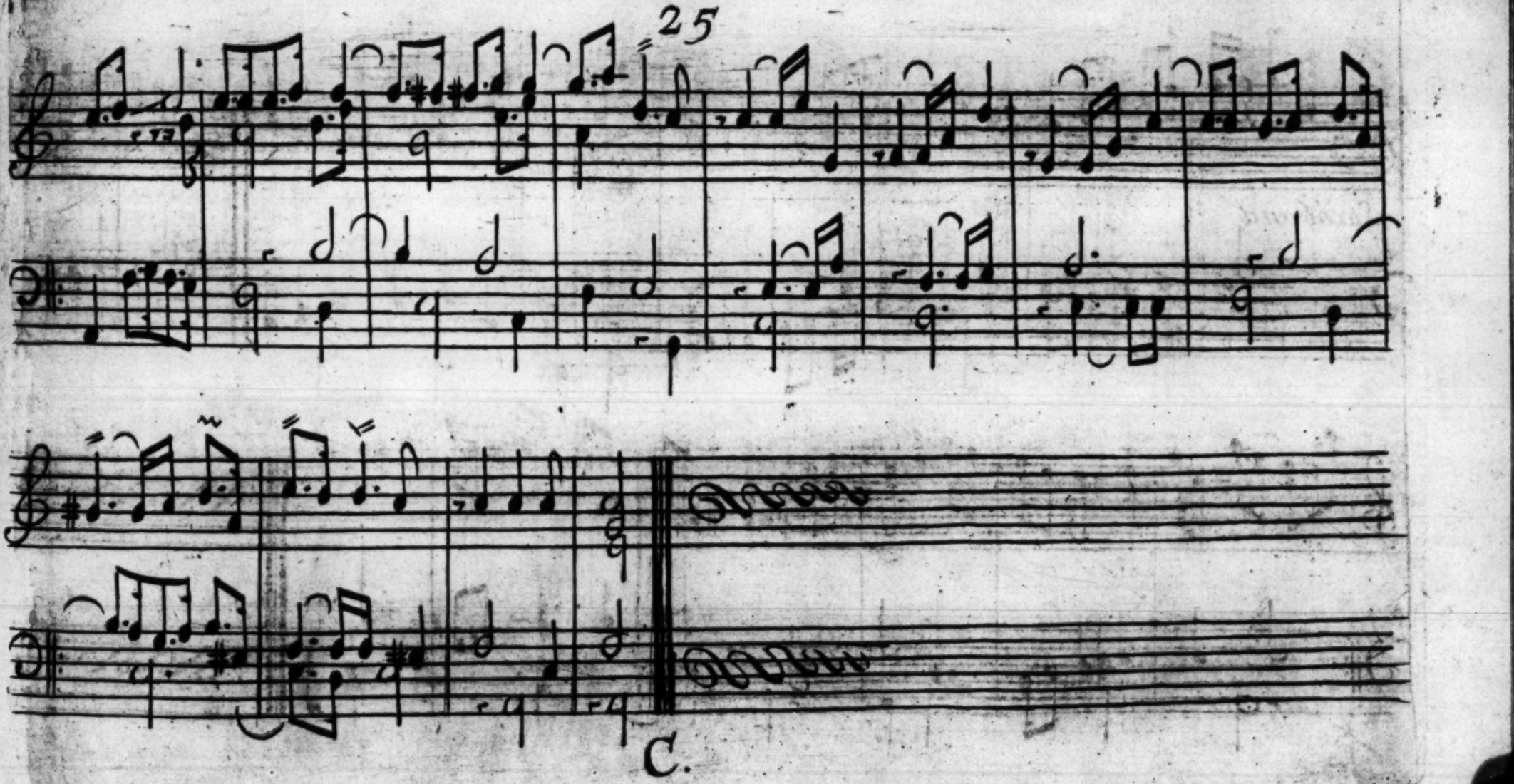
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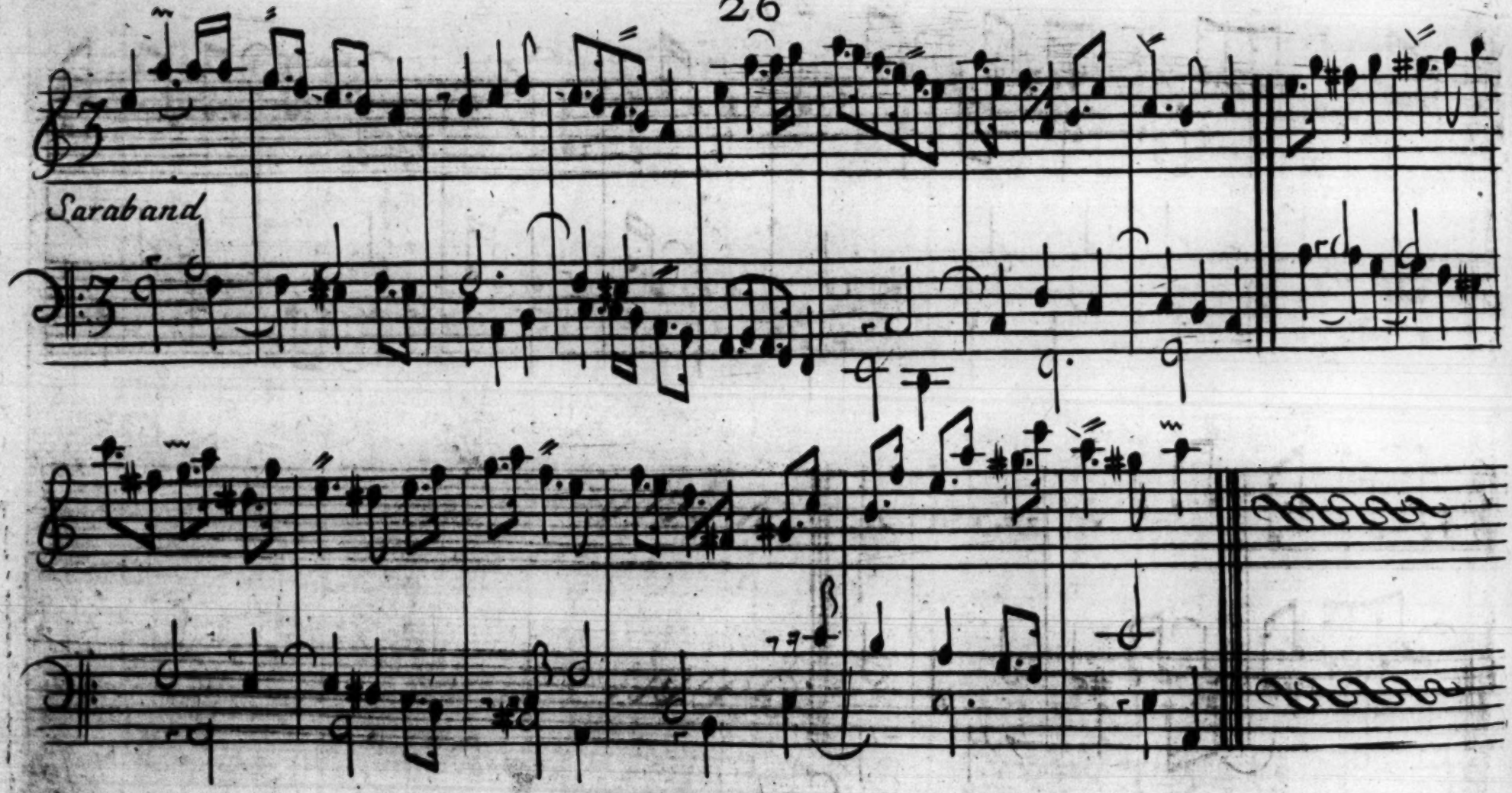
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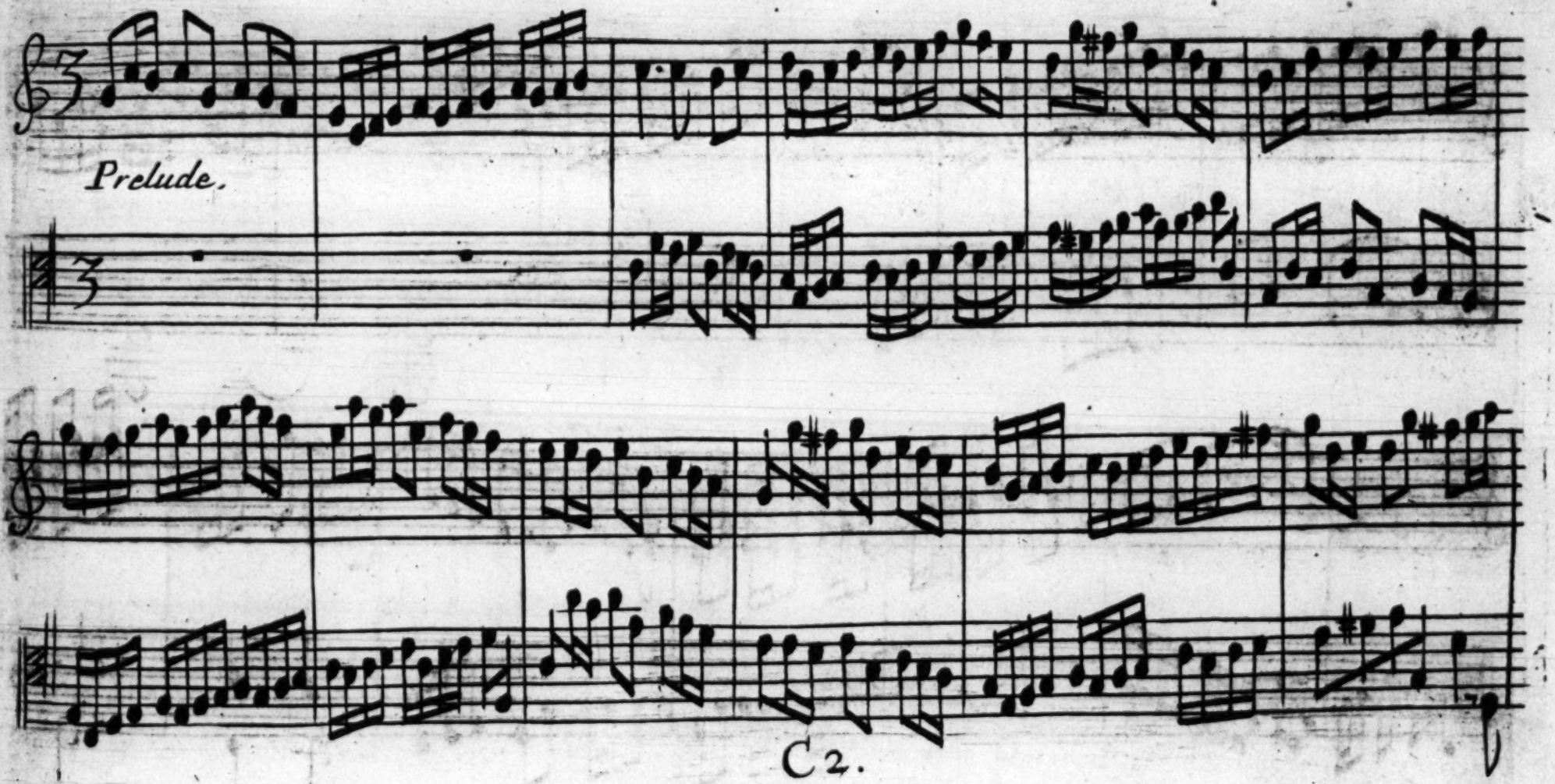
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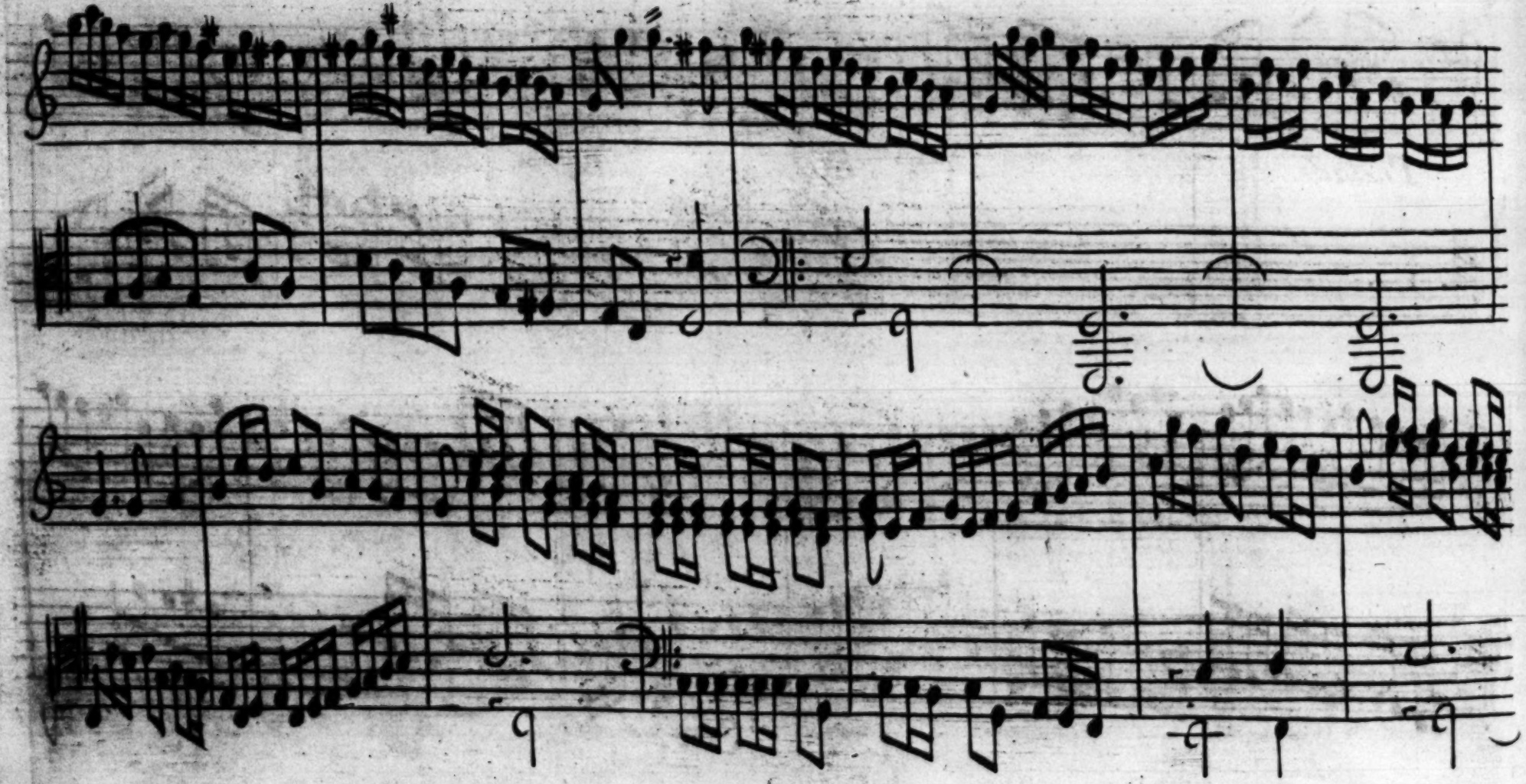

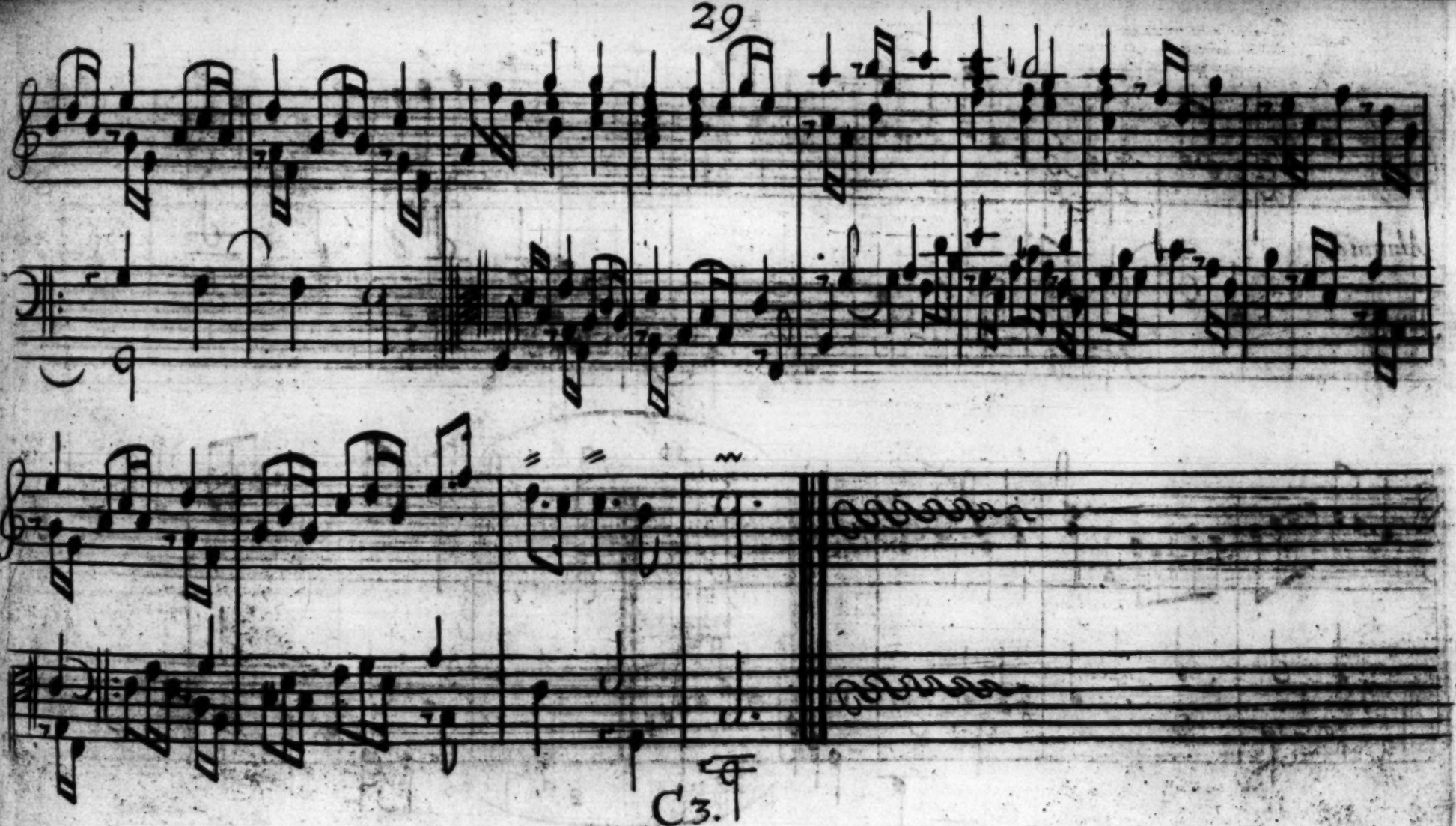
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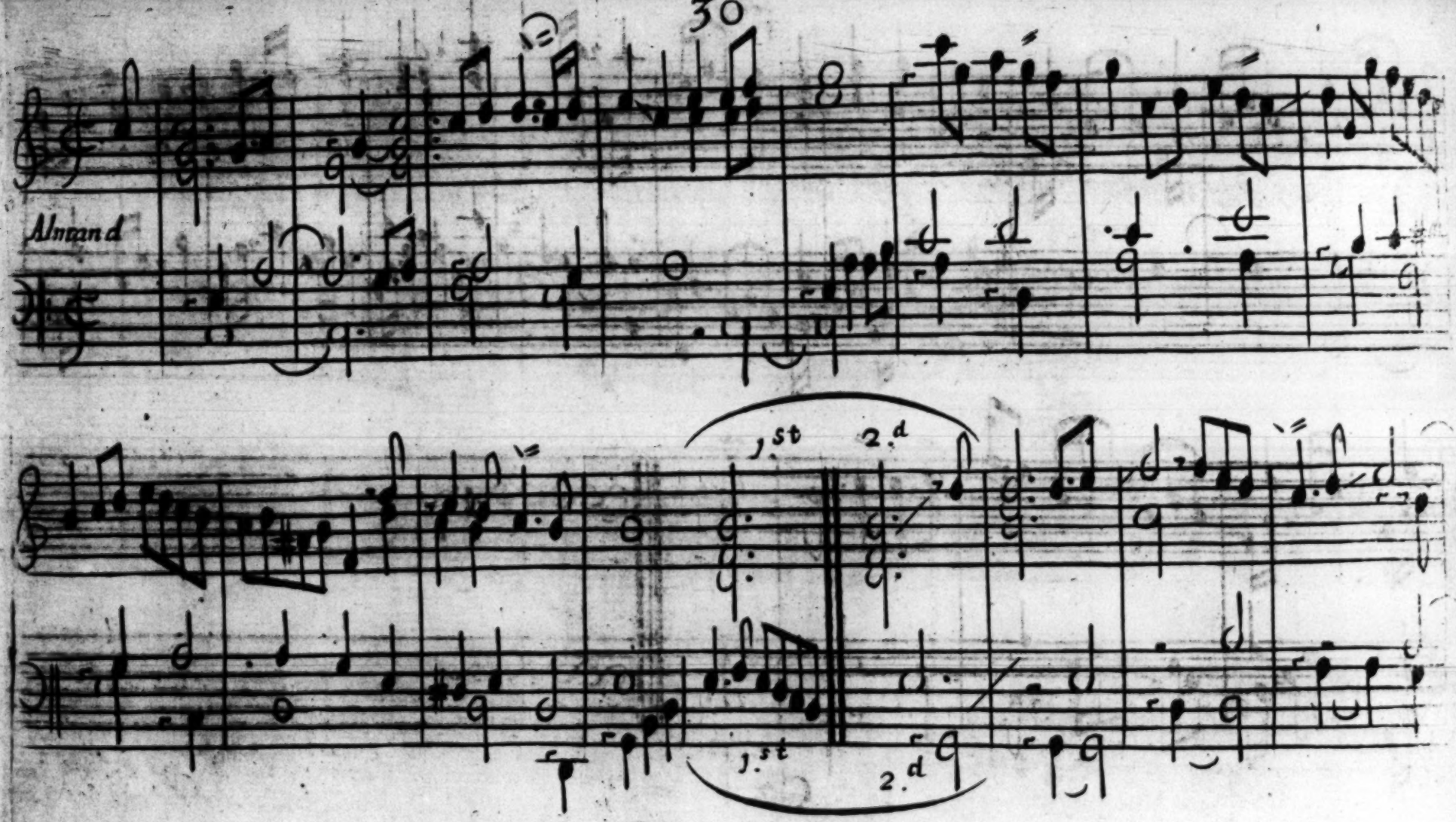
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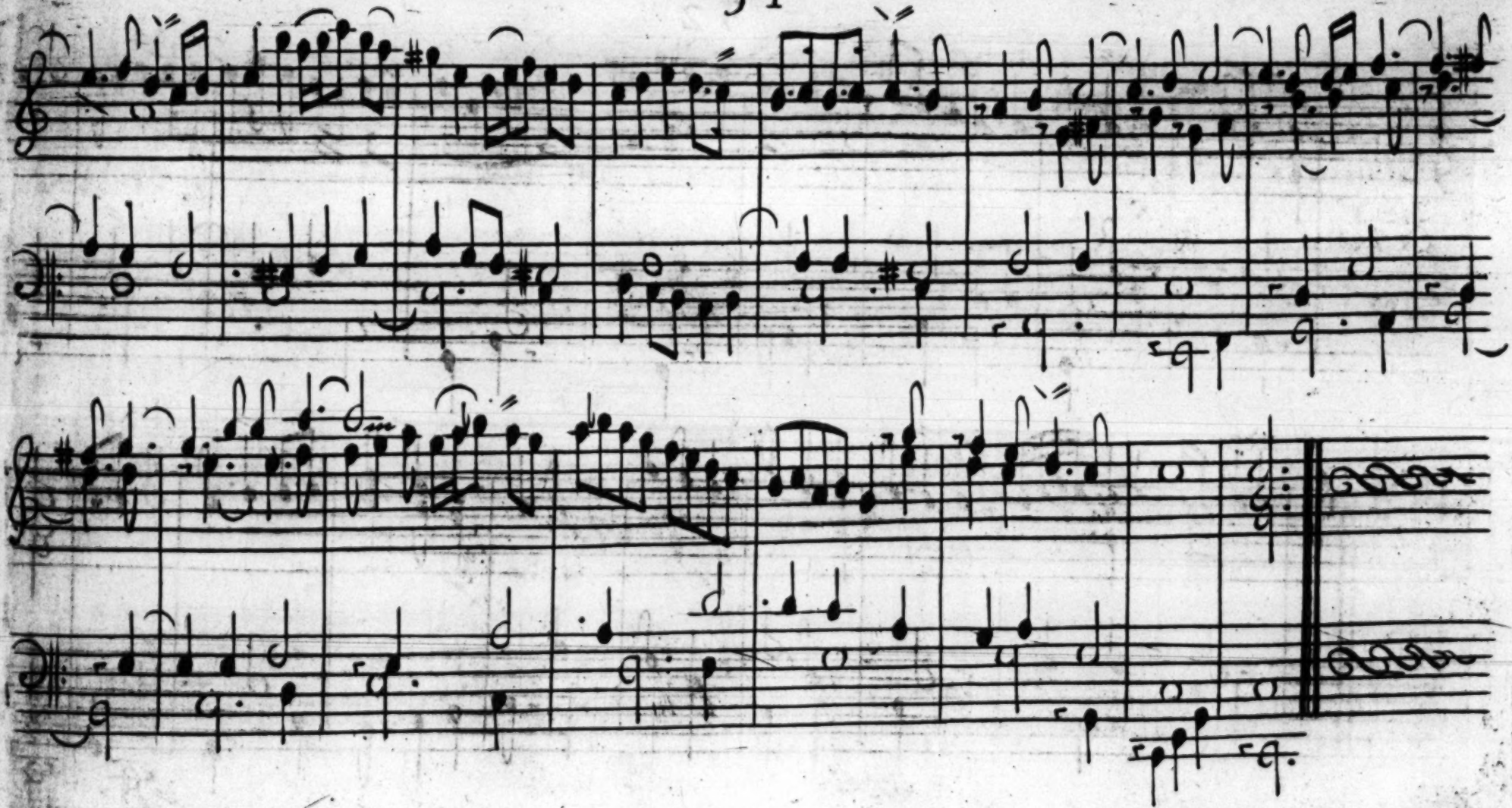

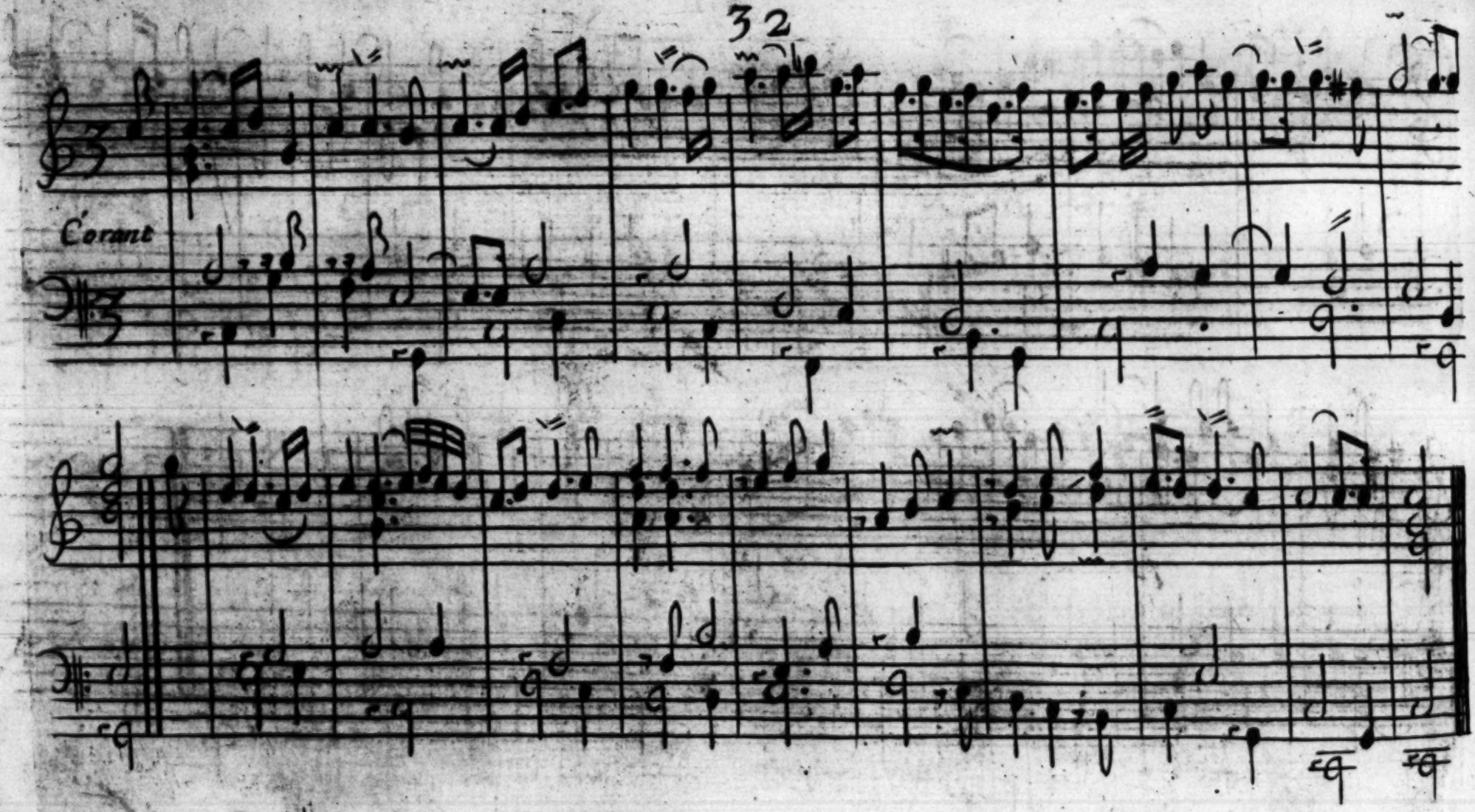
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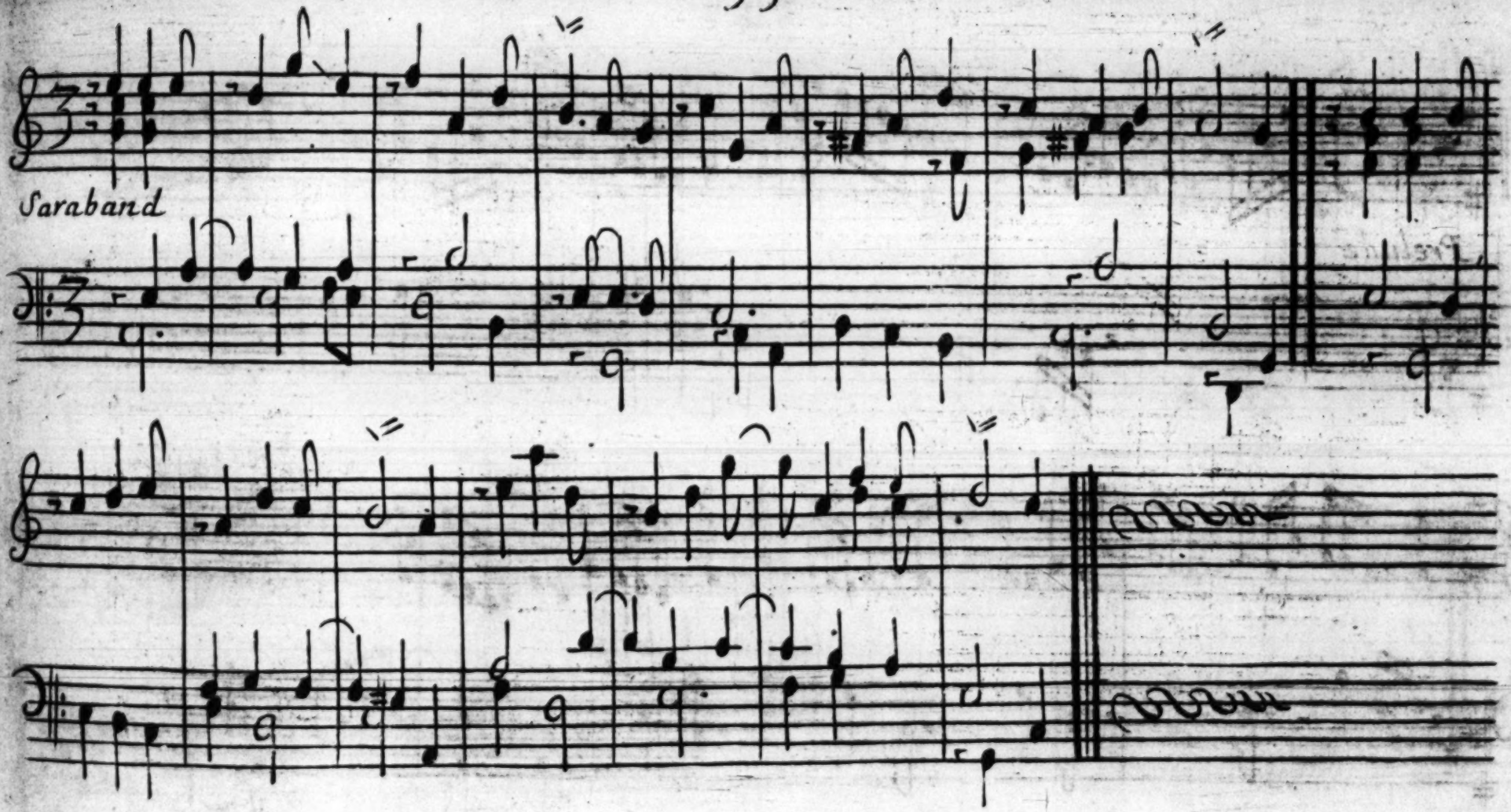
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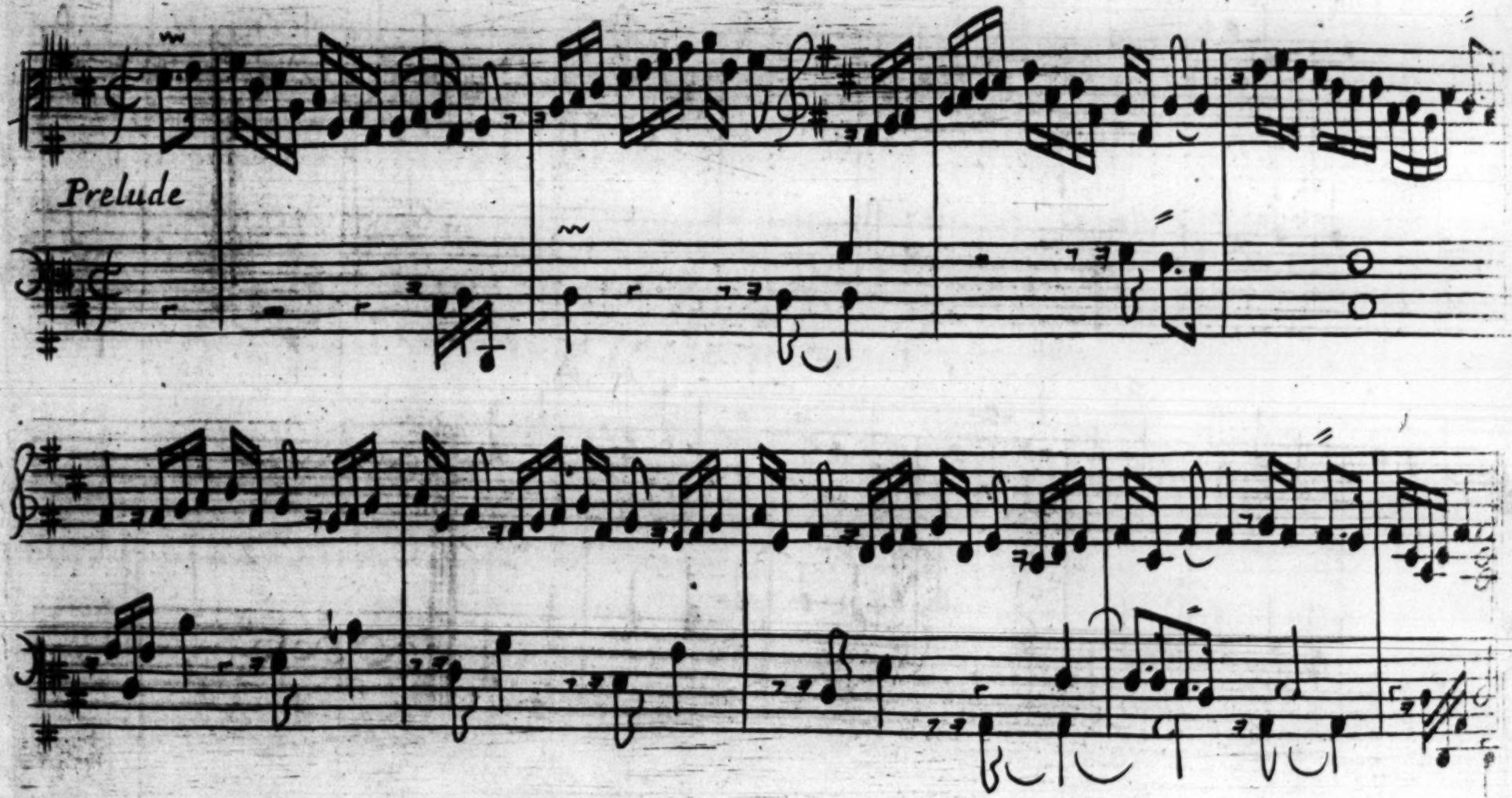
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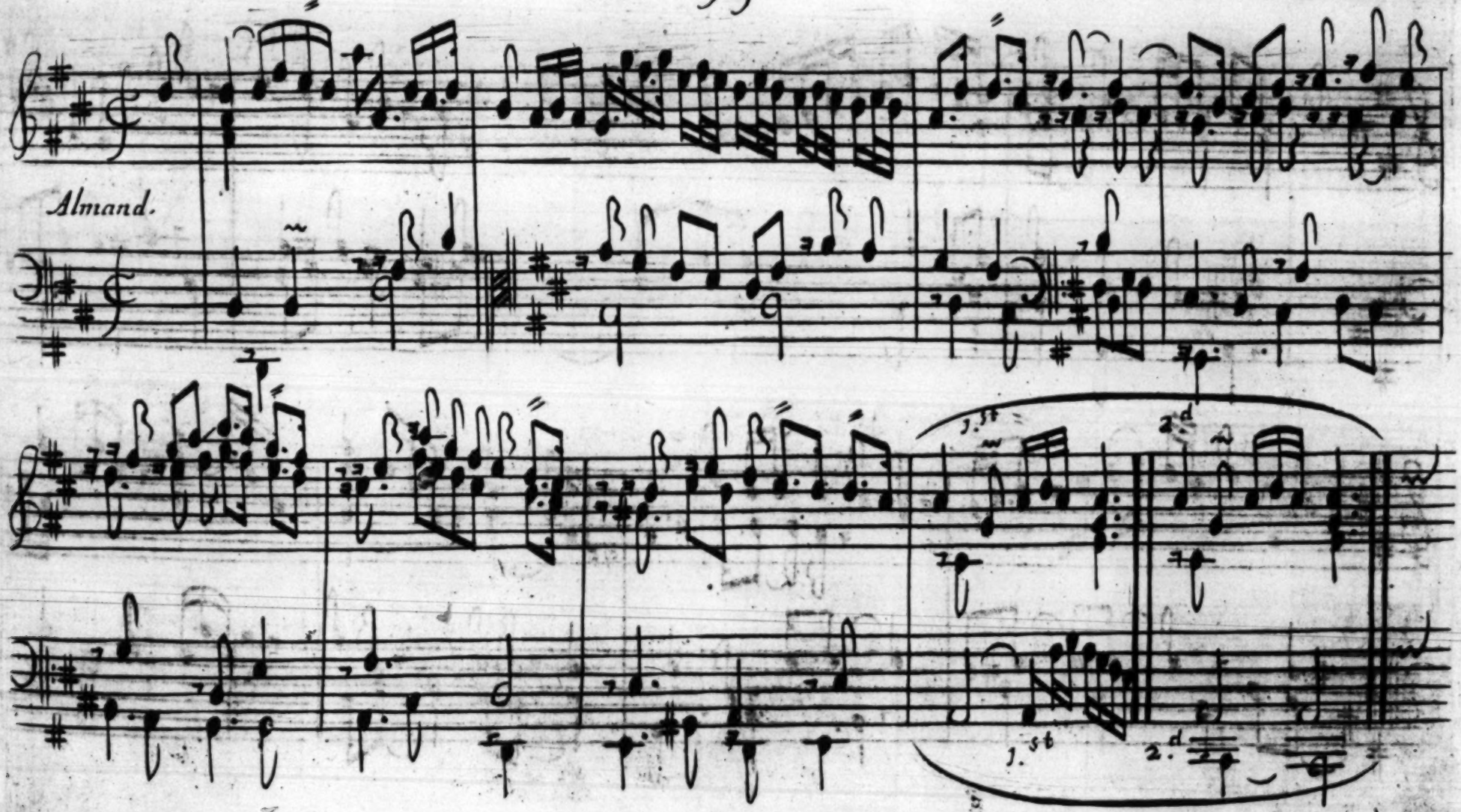
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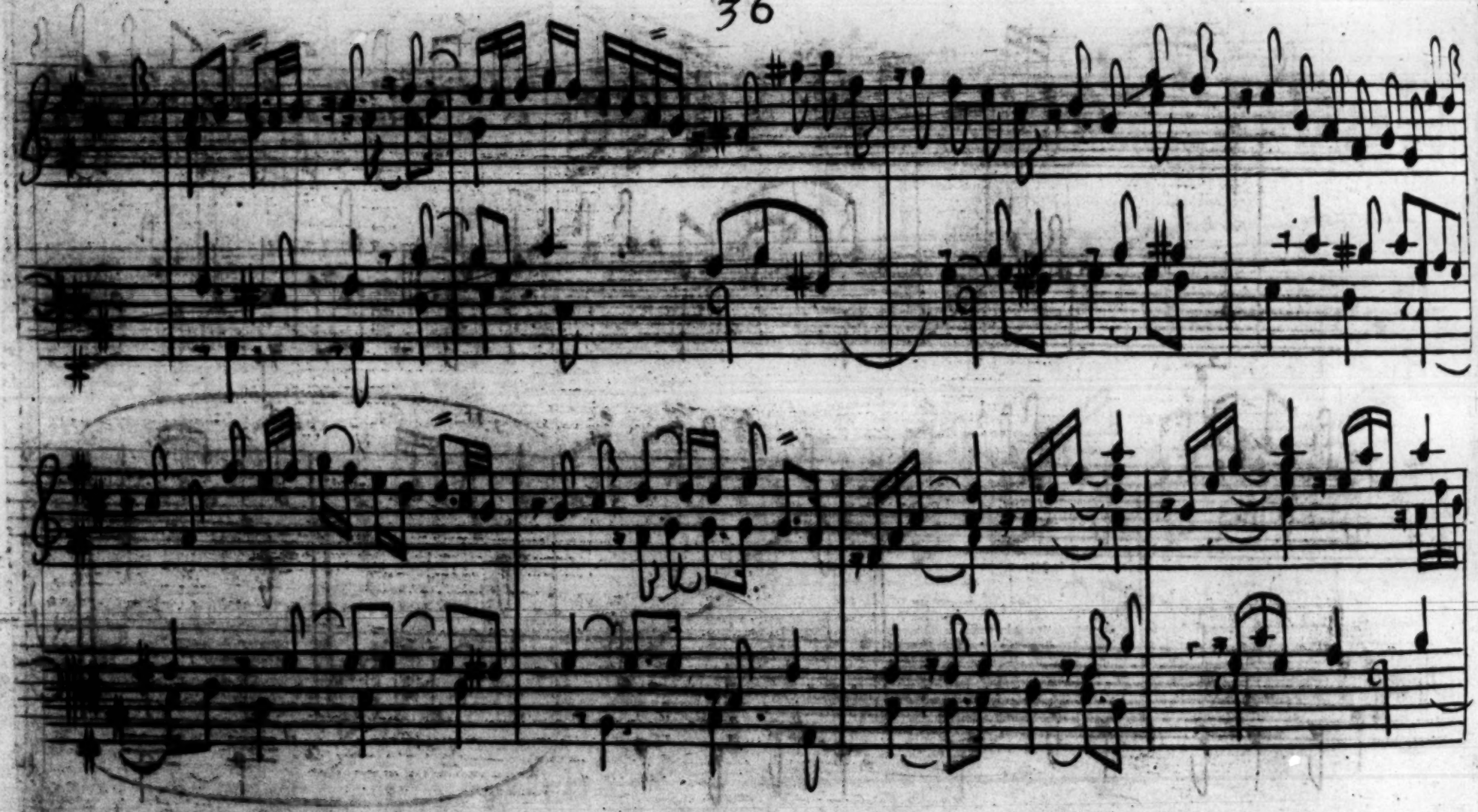

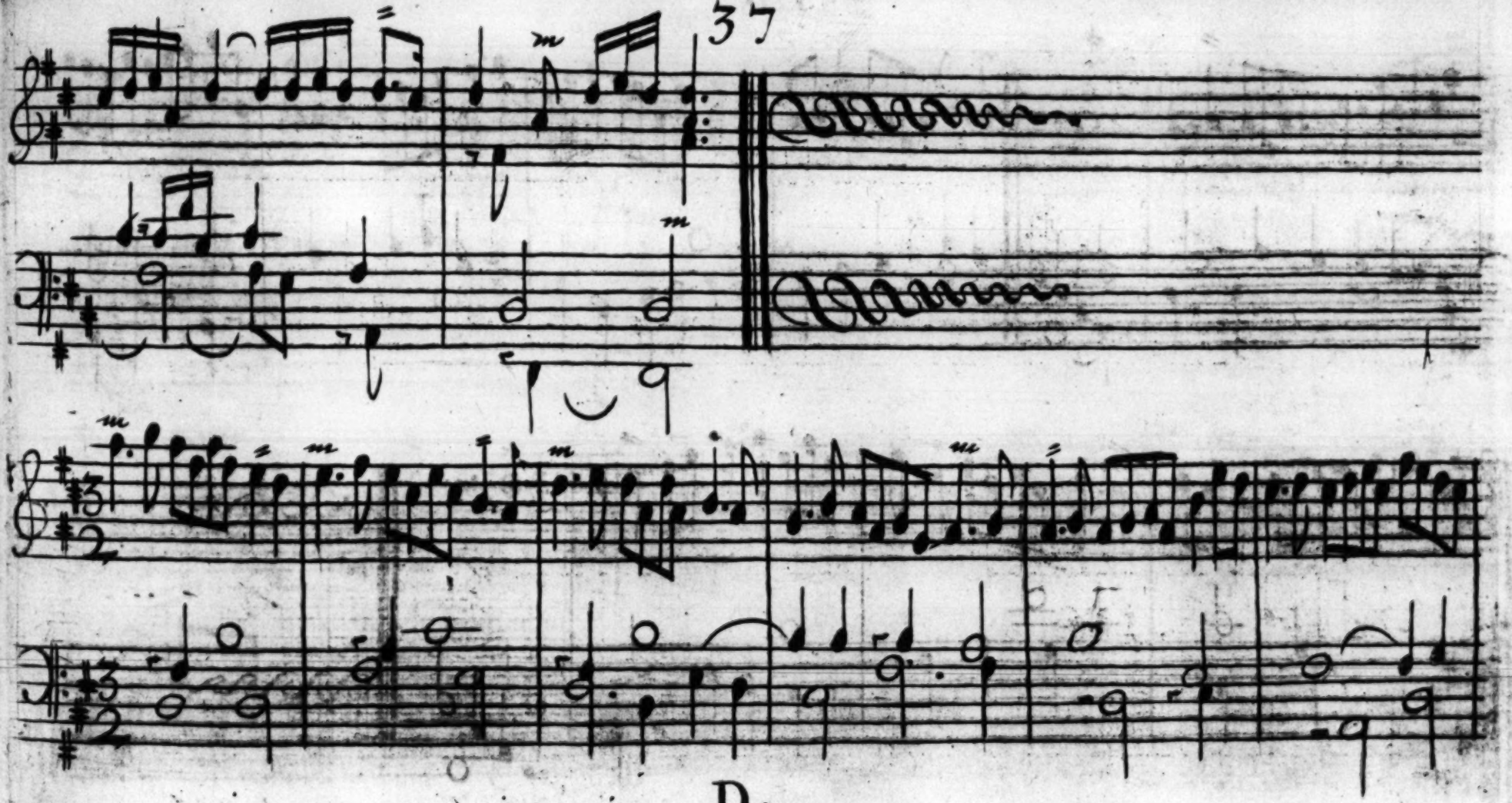

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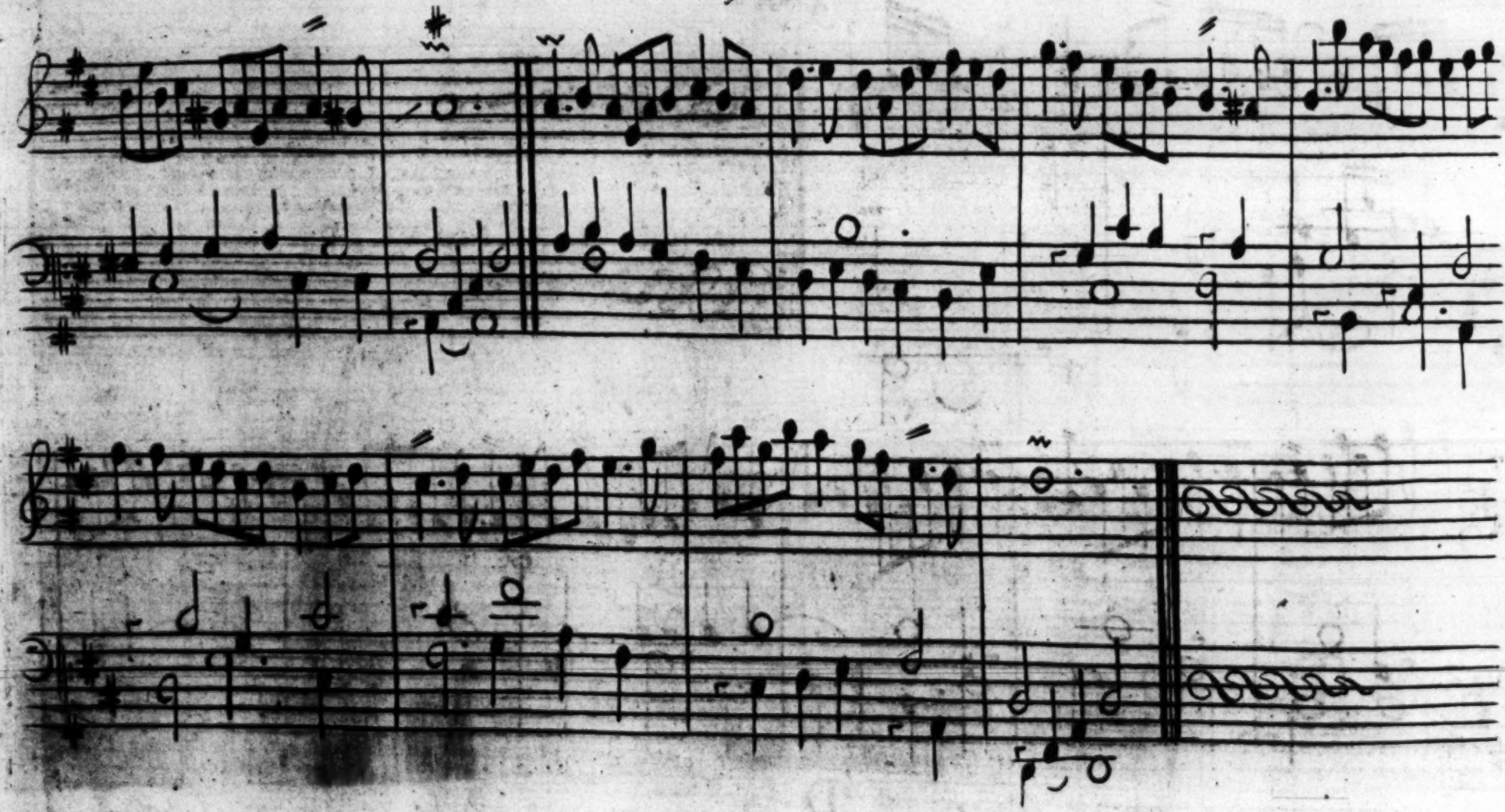

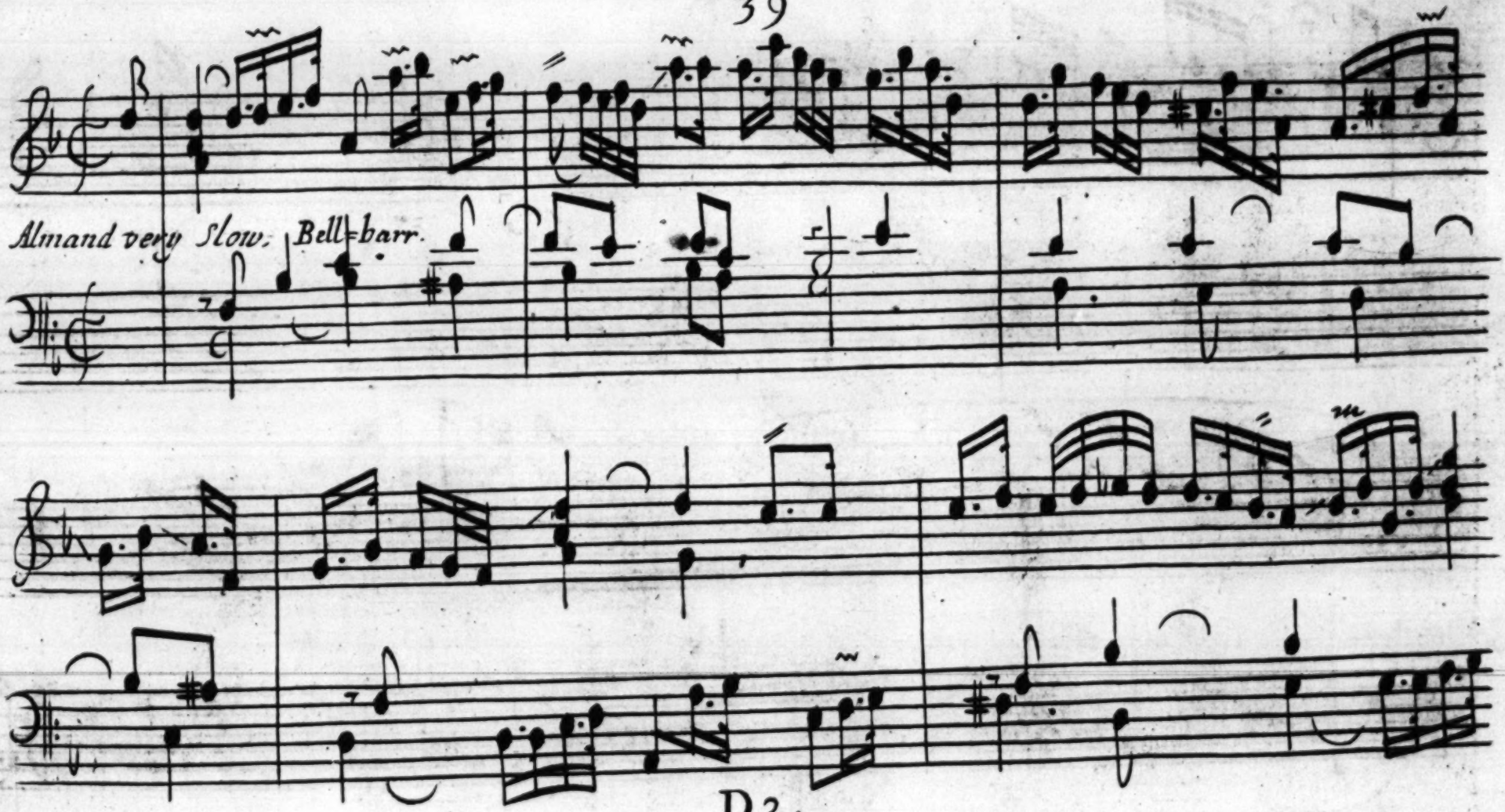

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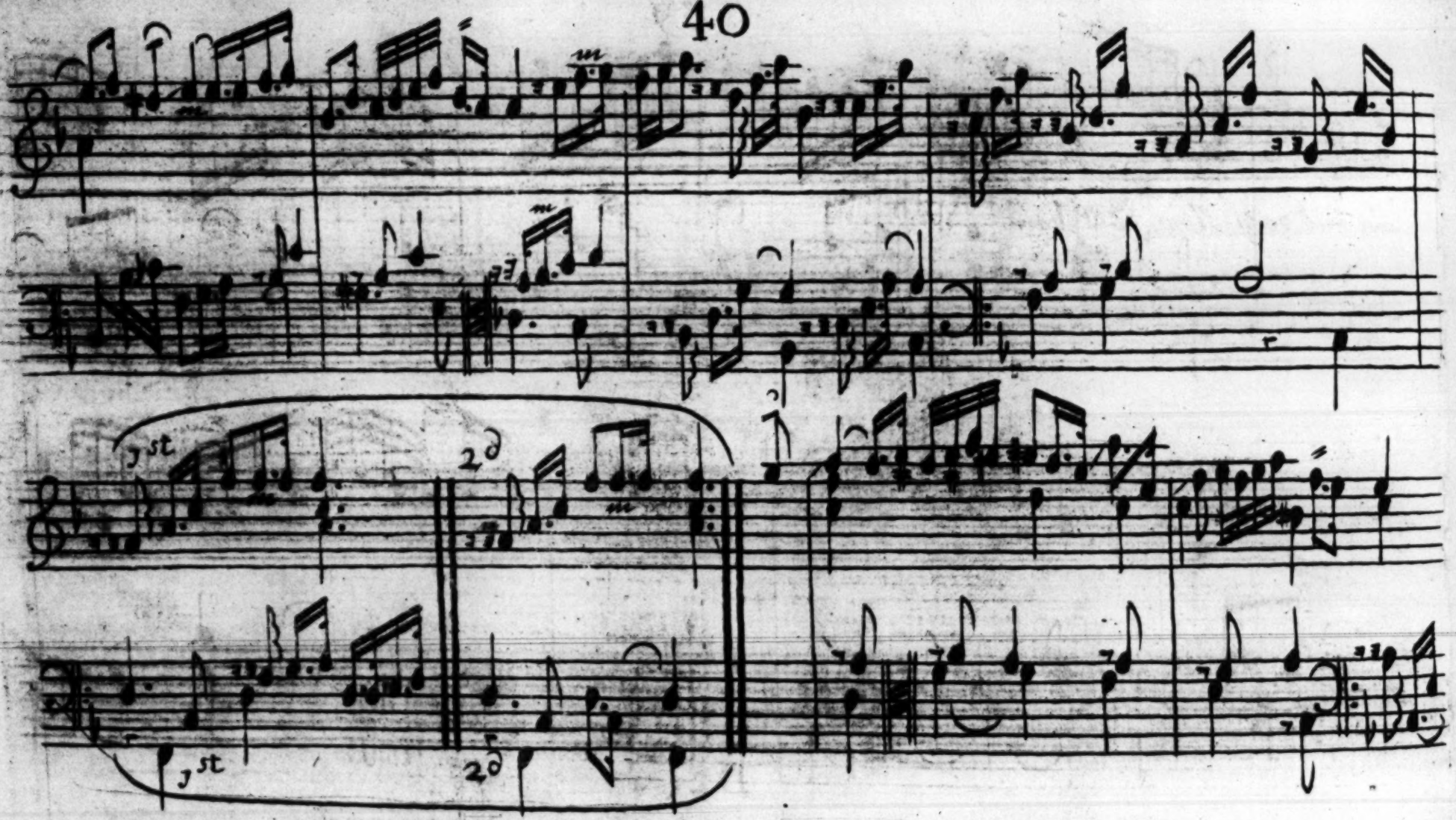
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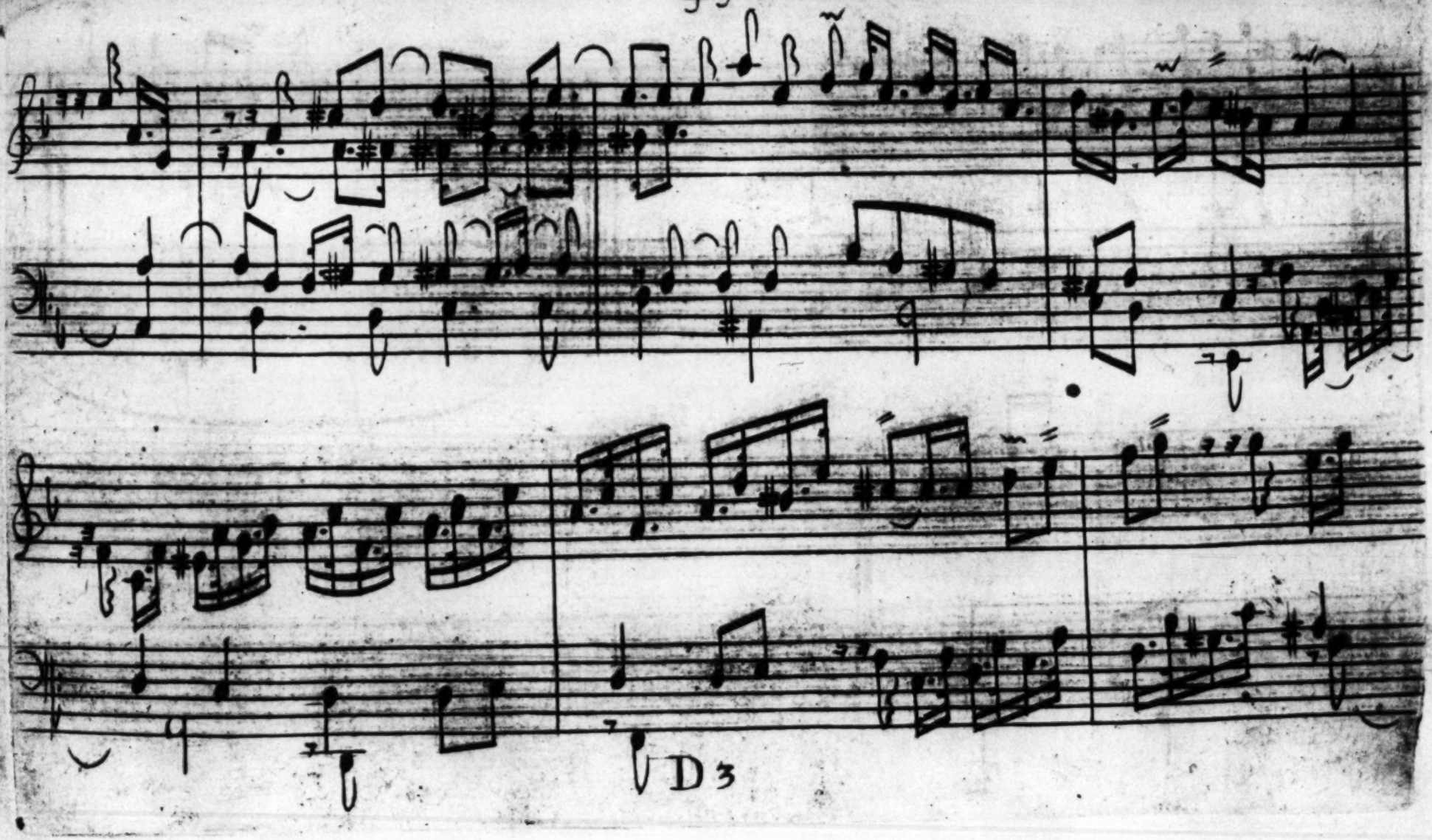
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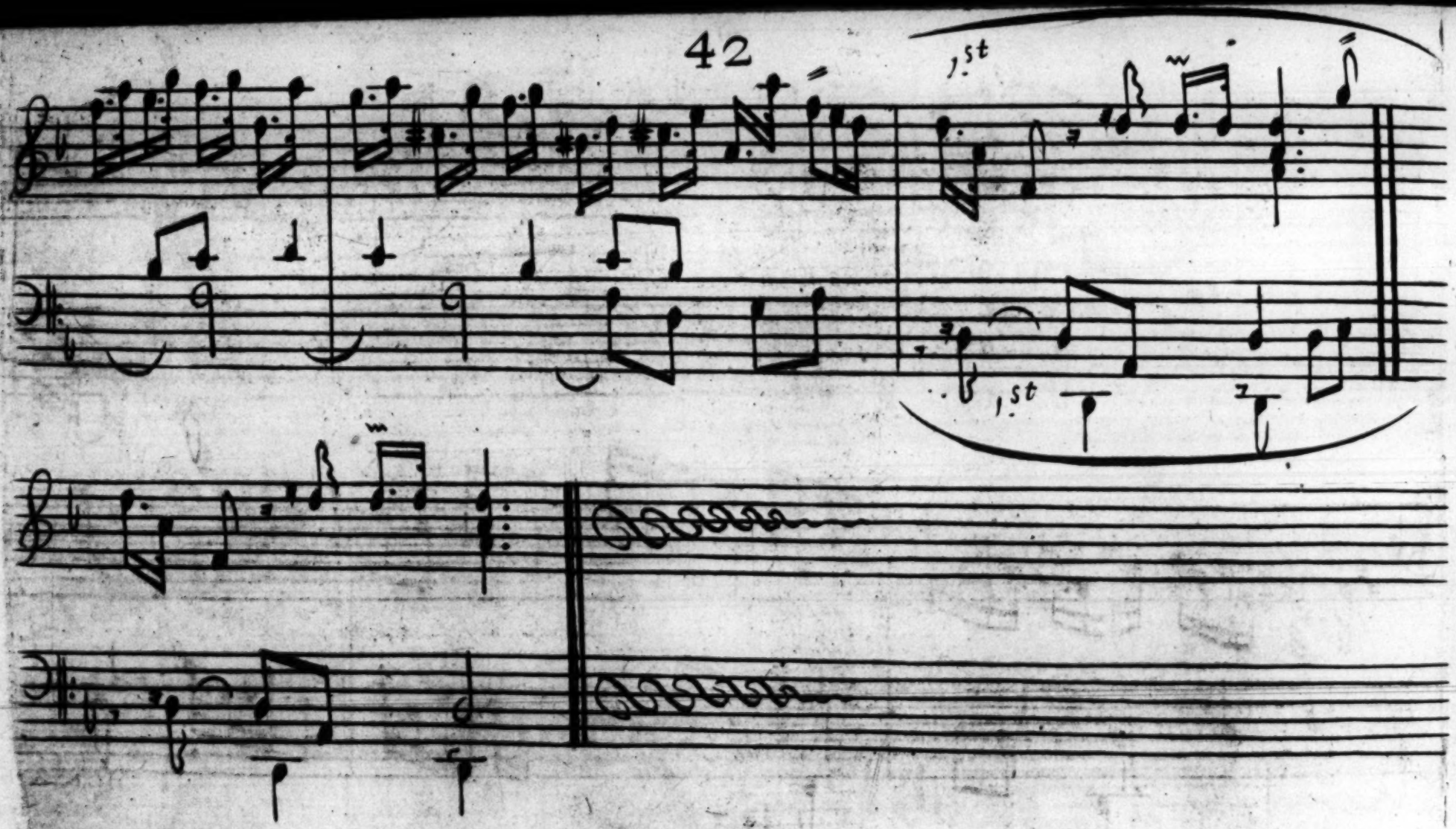
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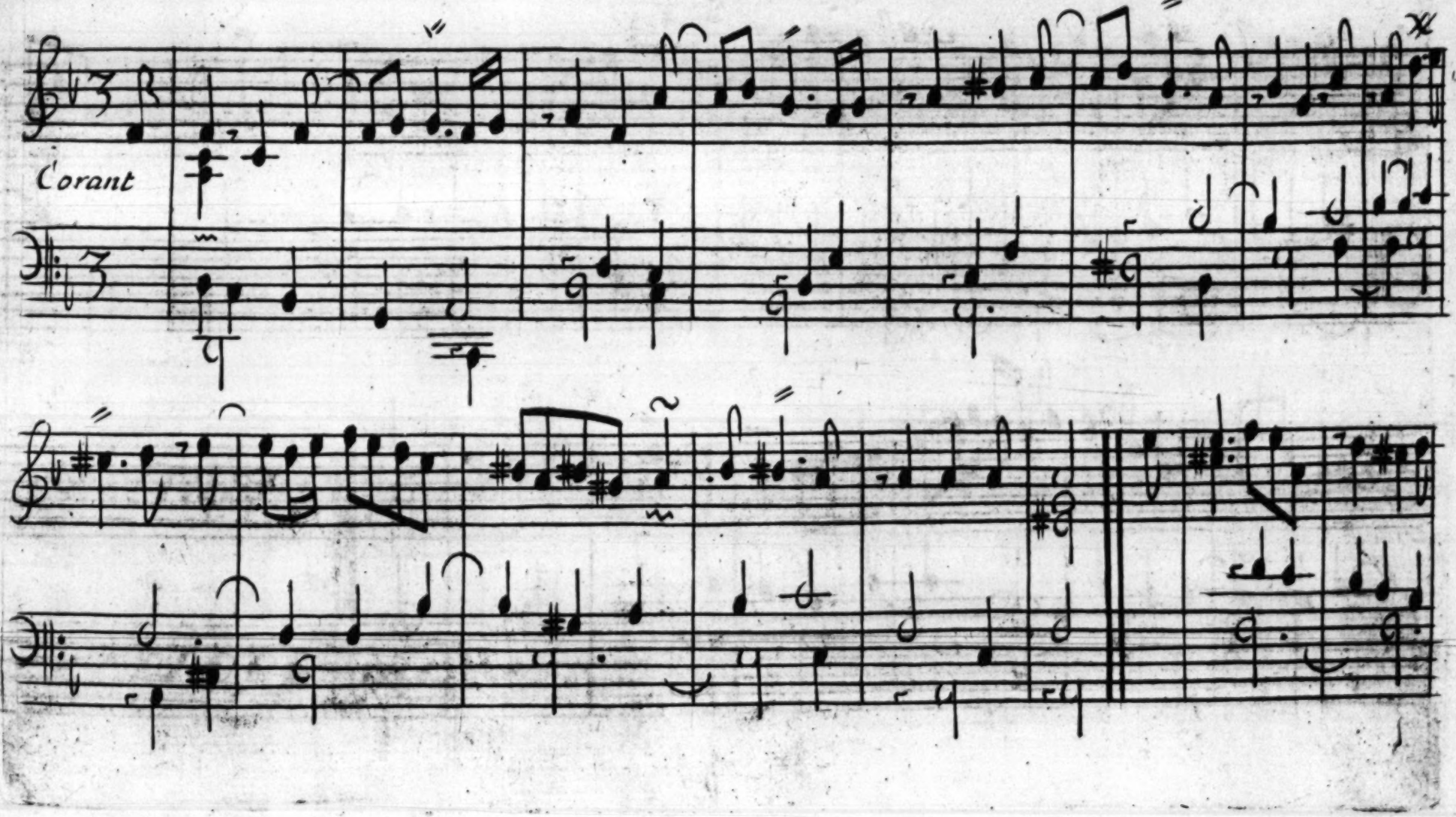
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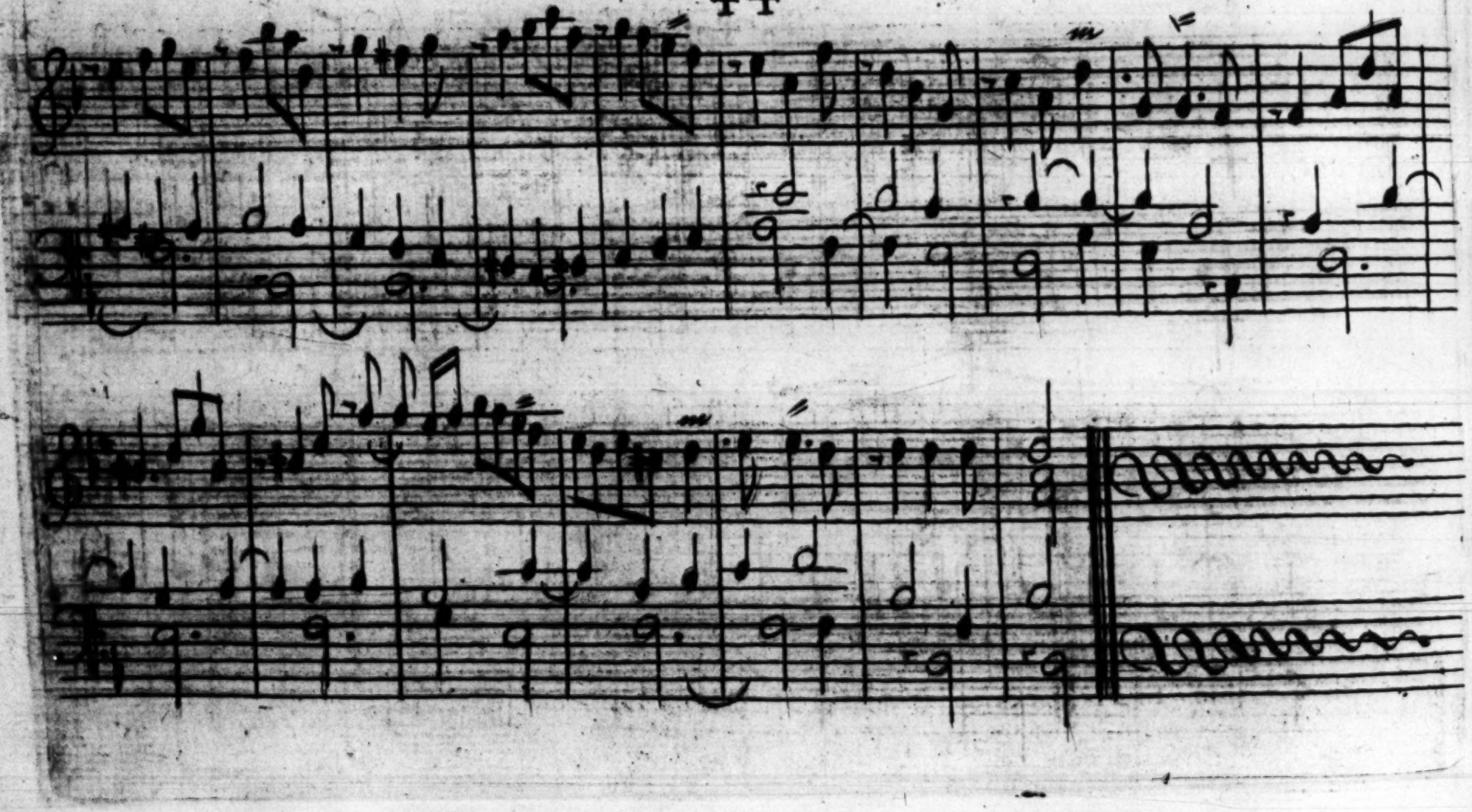

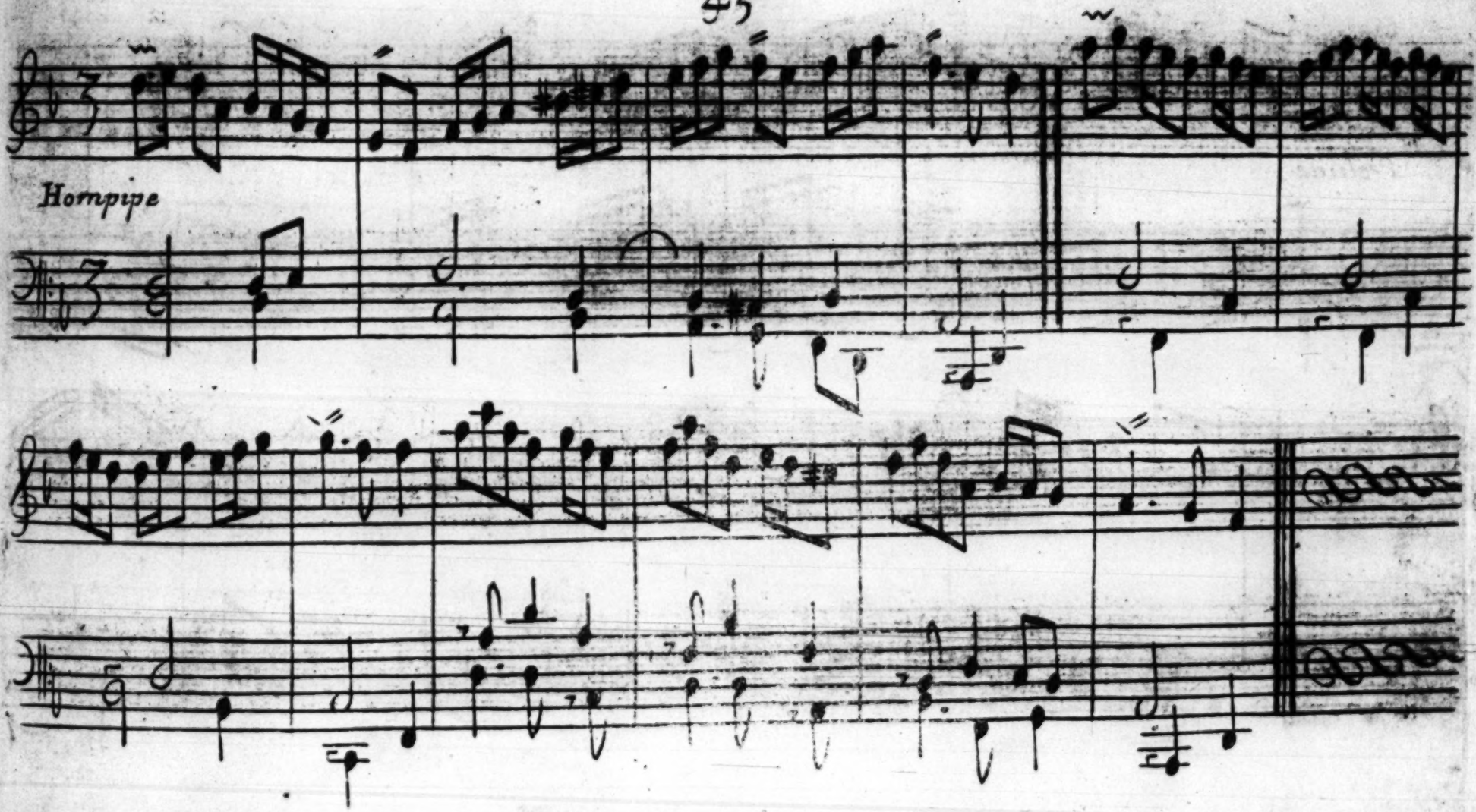
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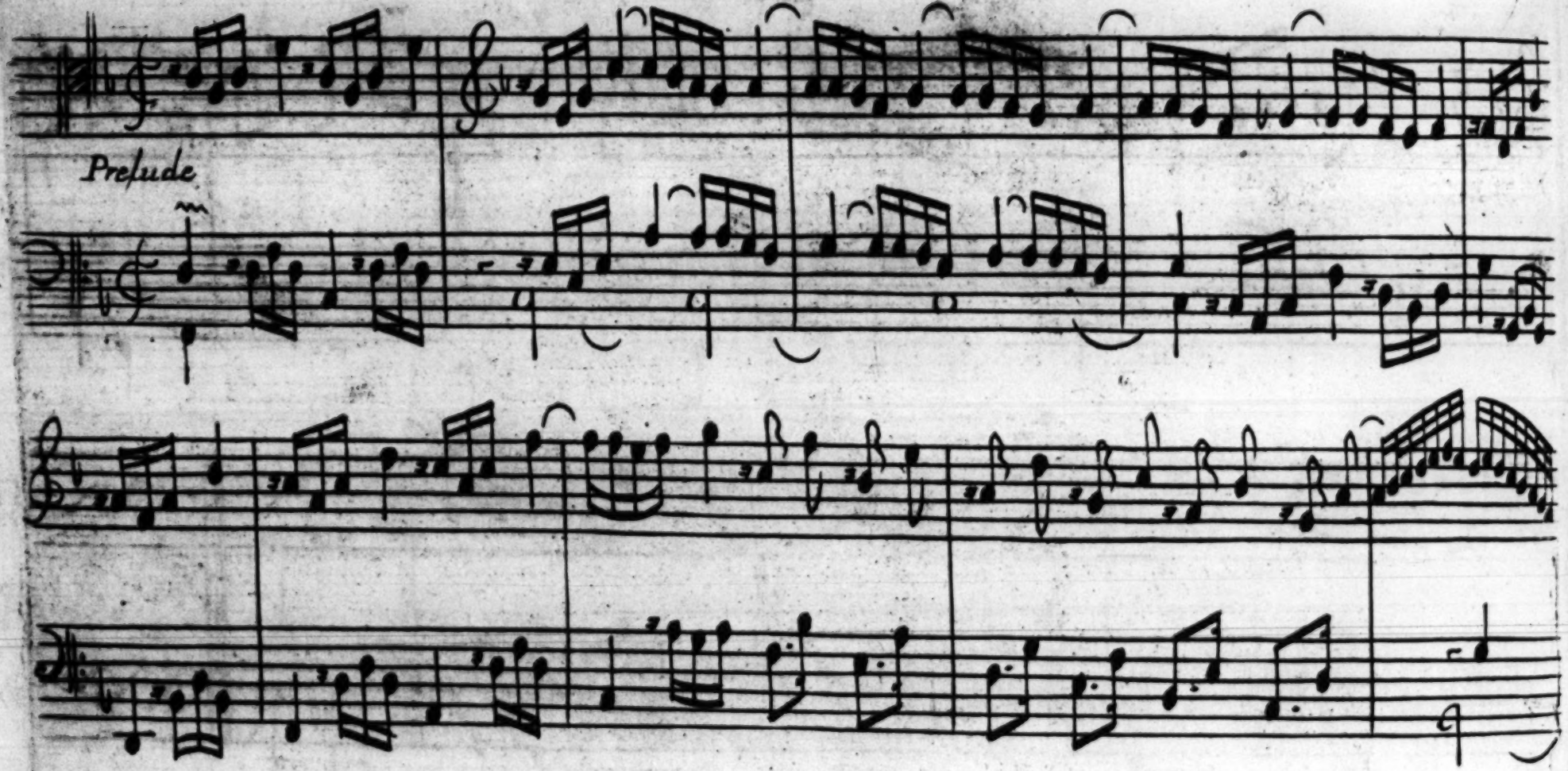
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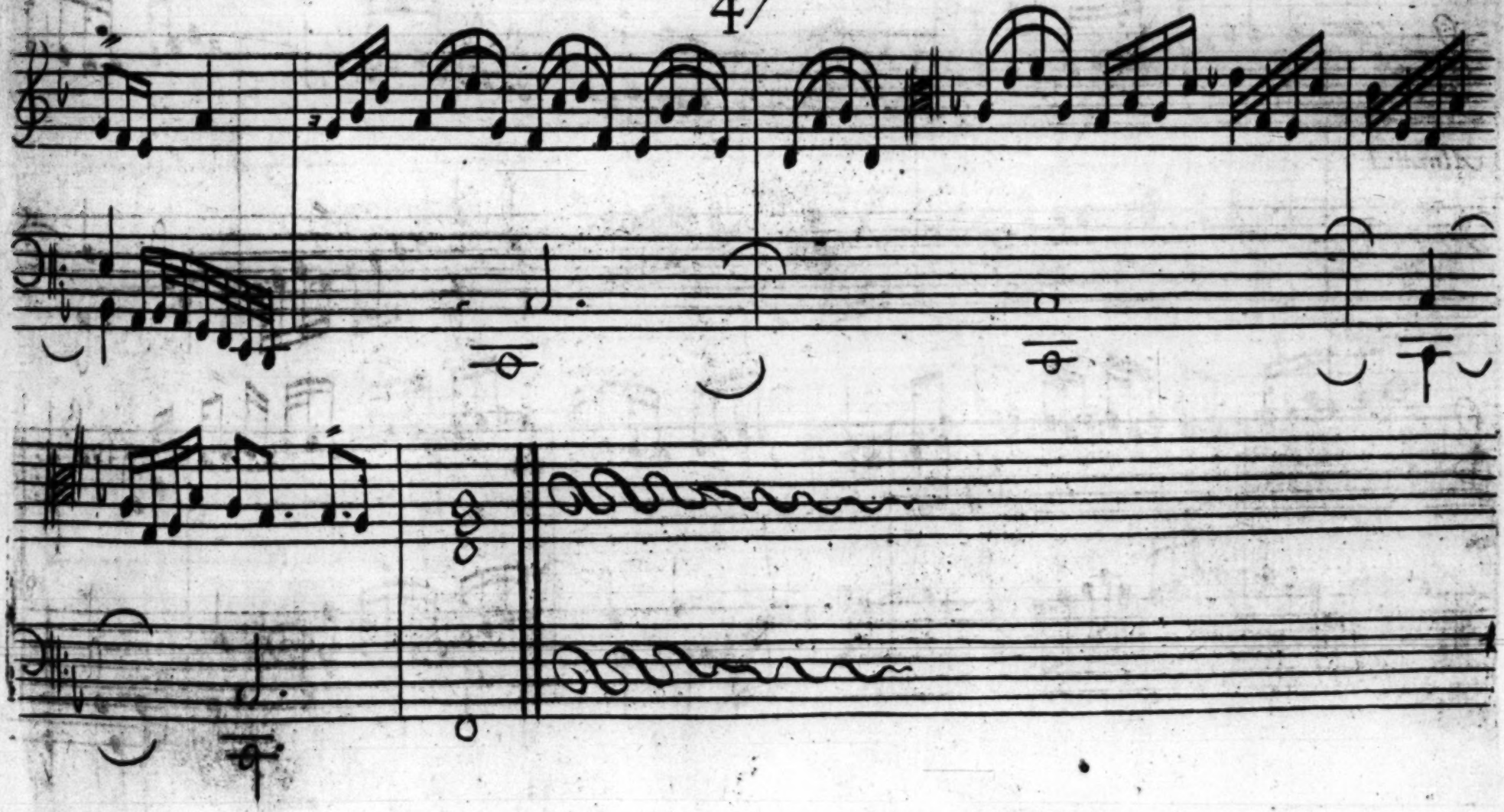

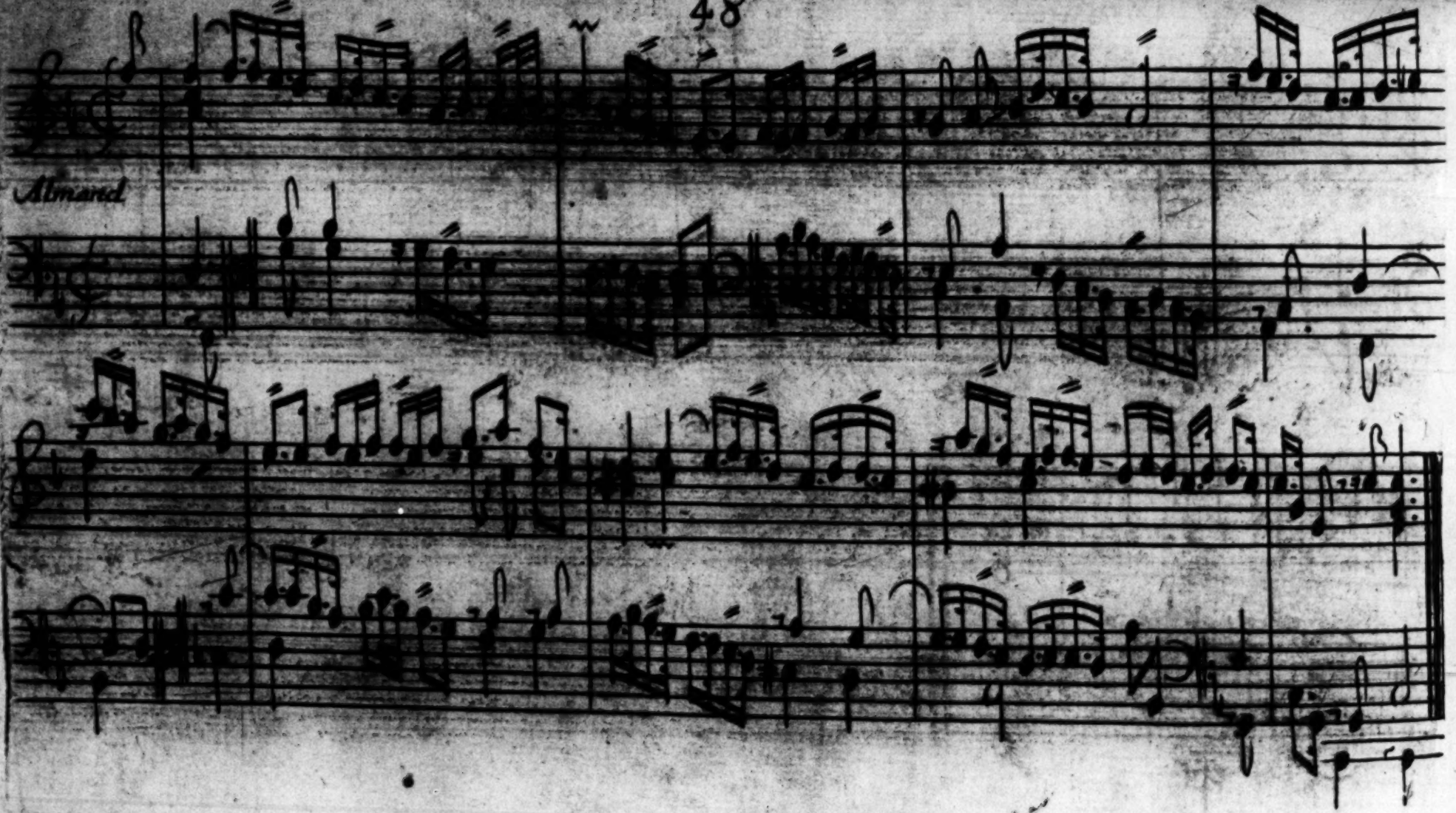
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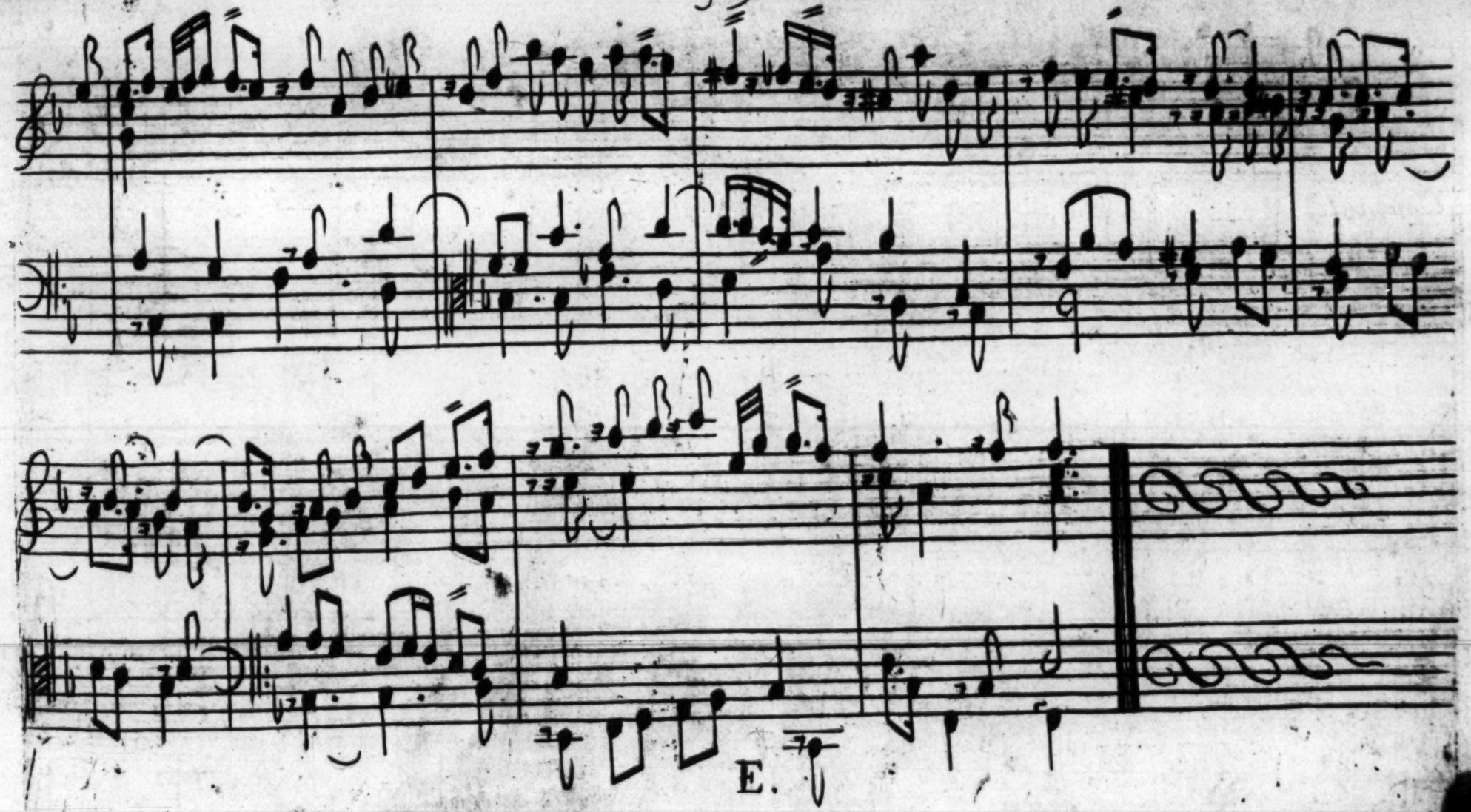
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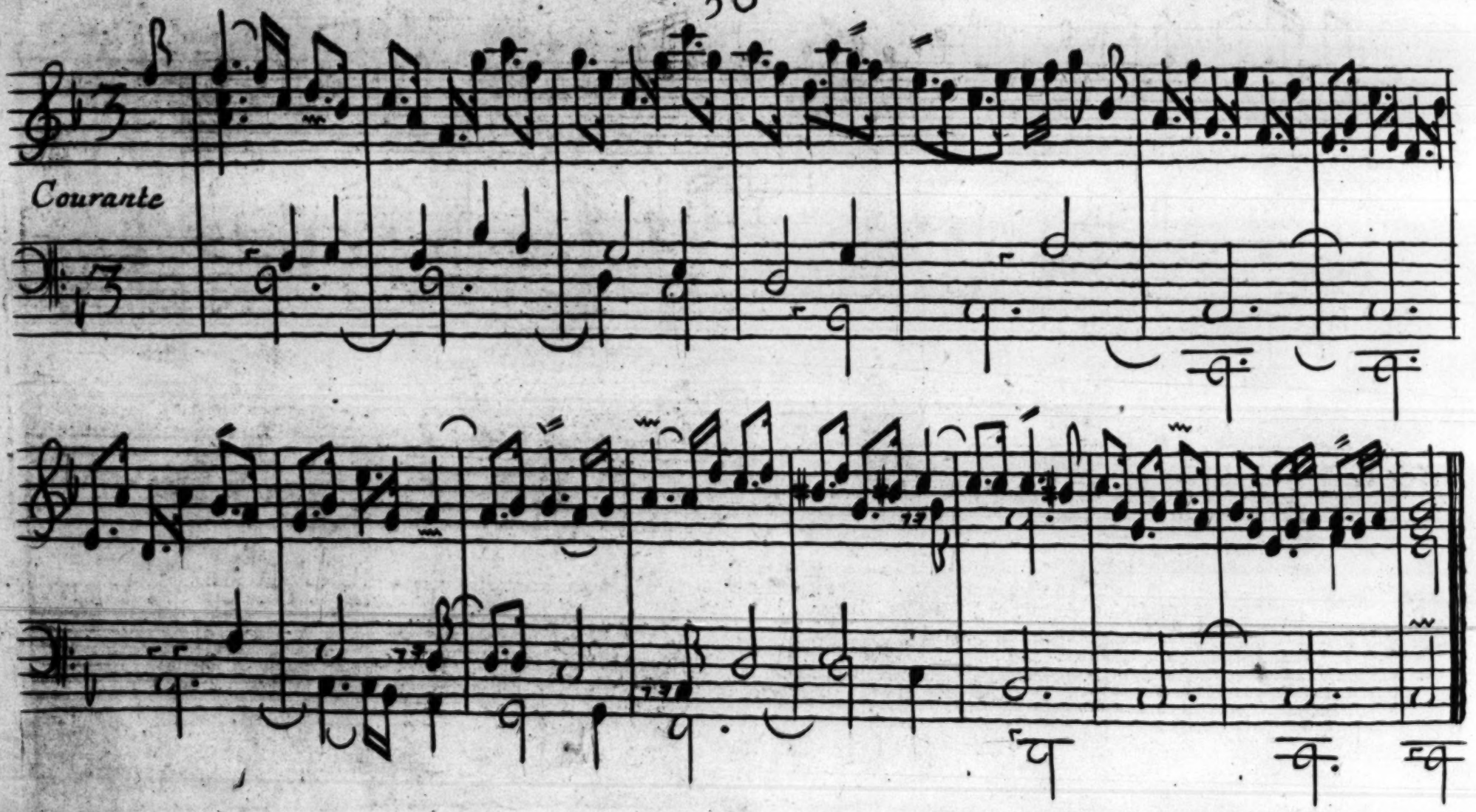
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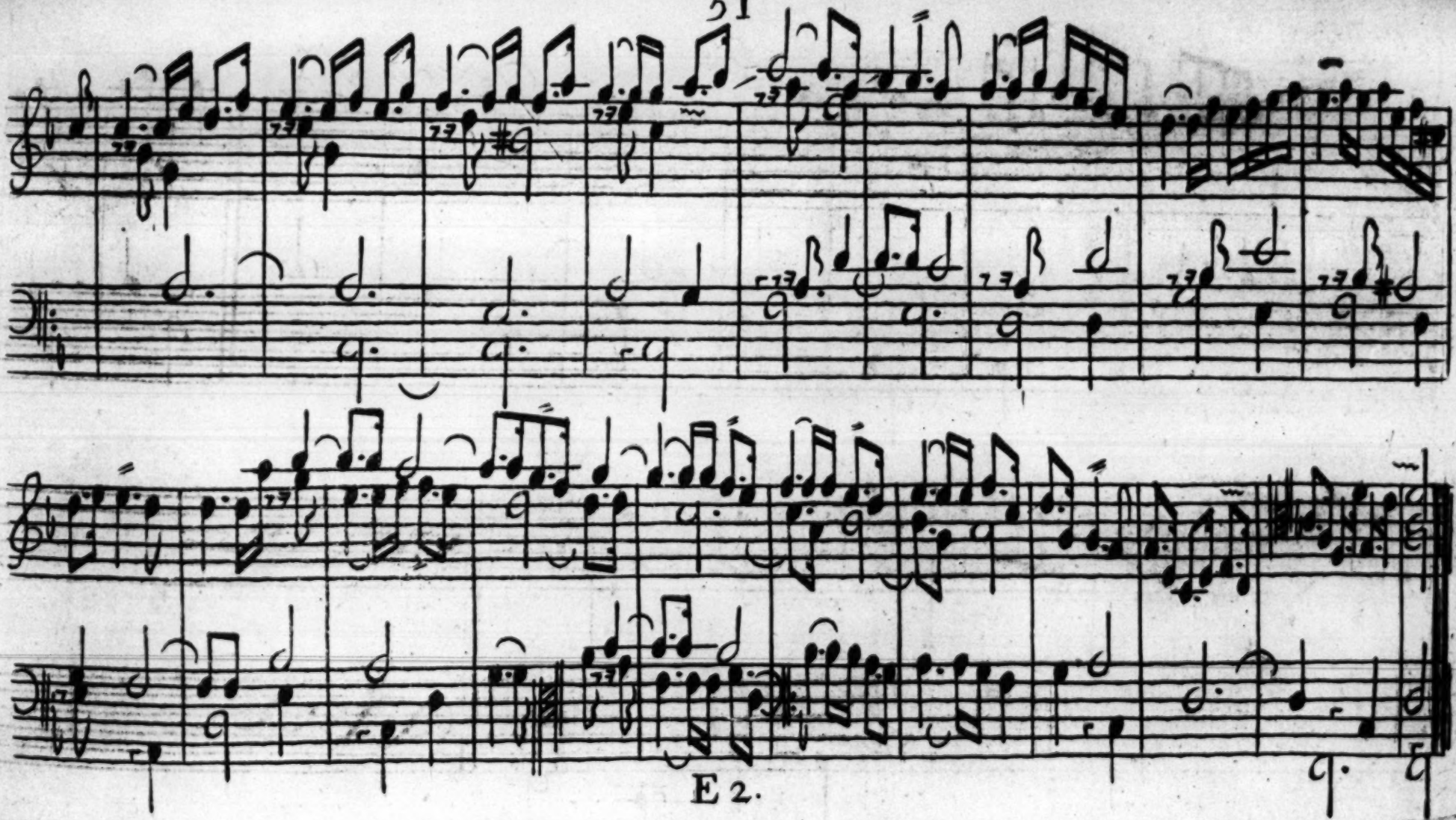

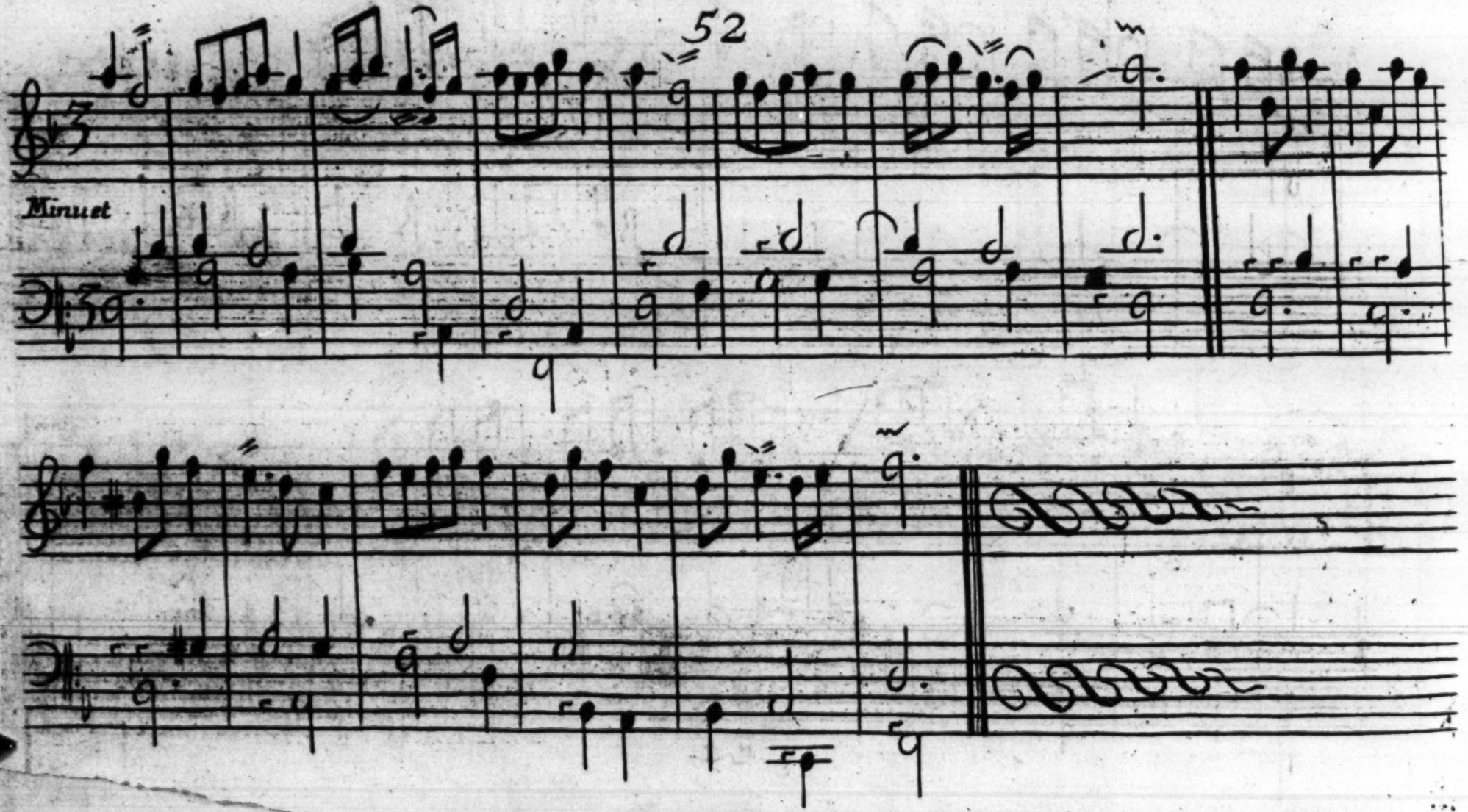
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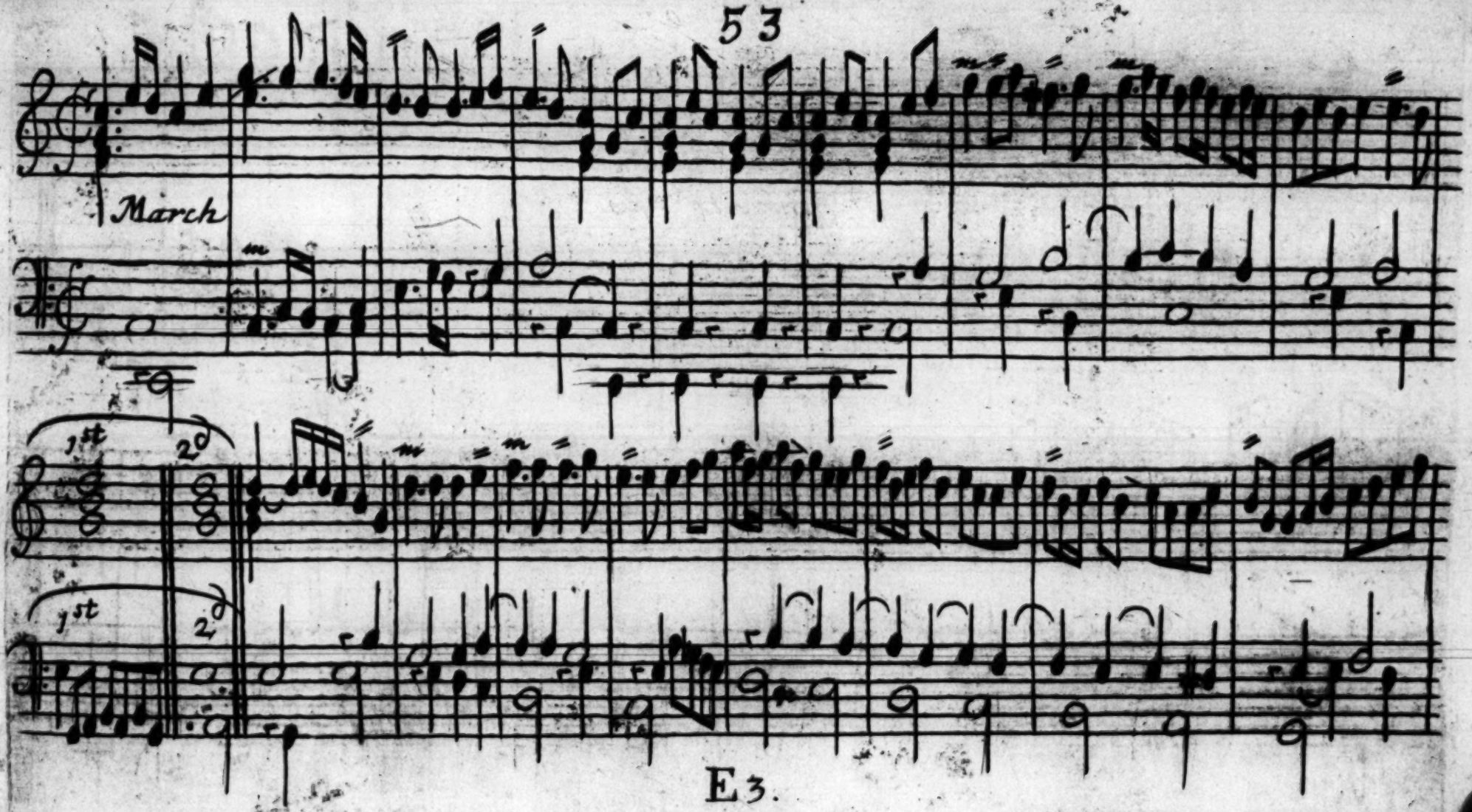
March
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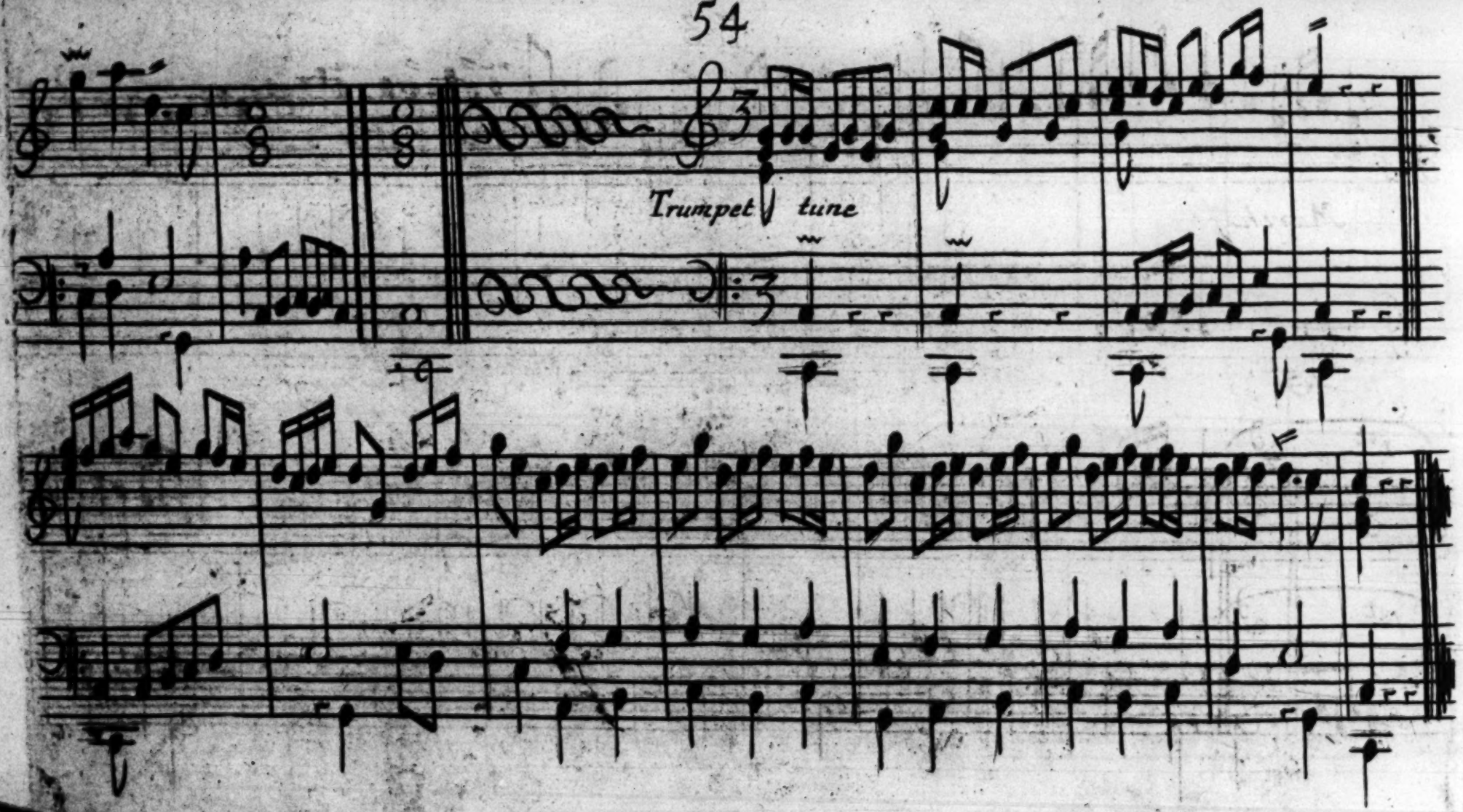
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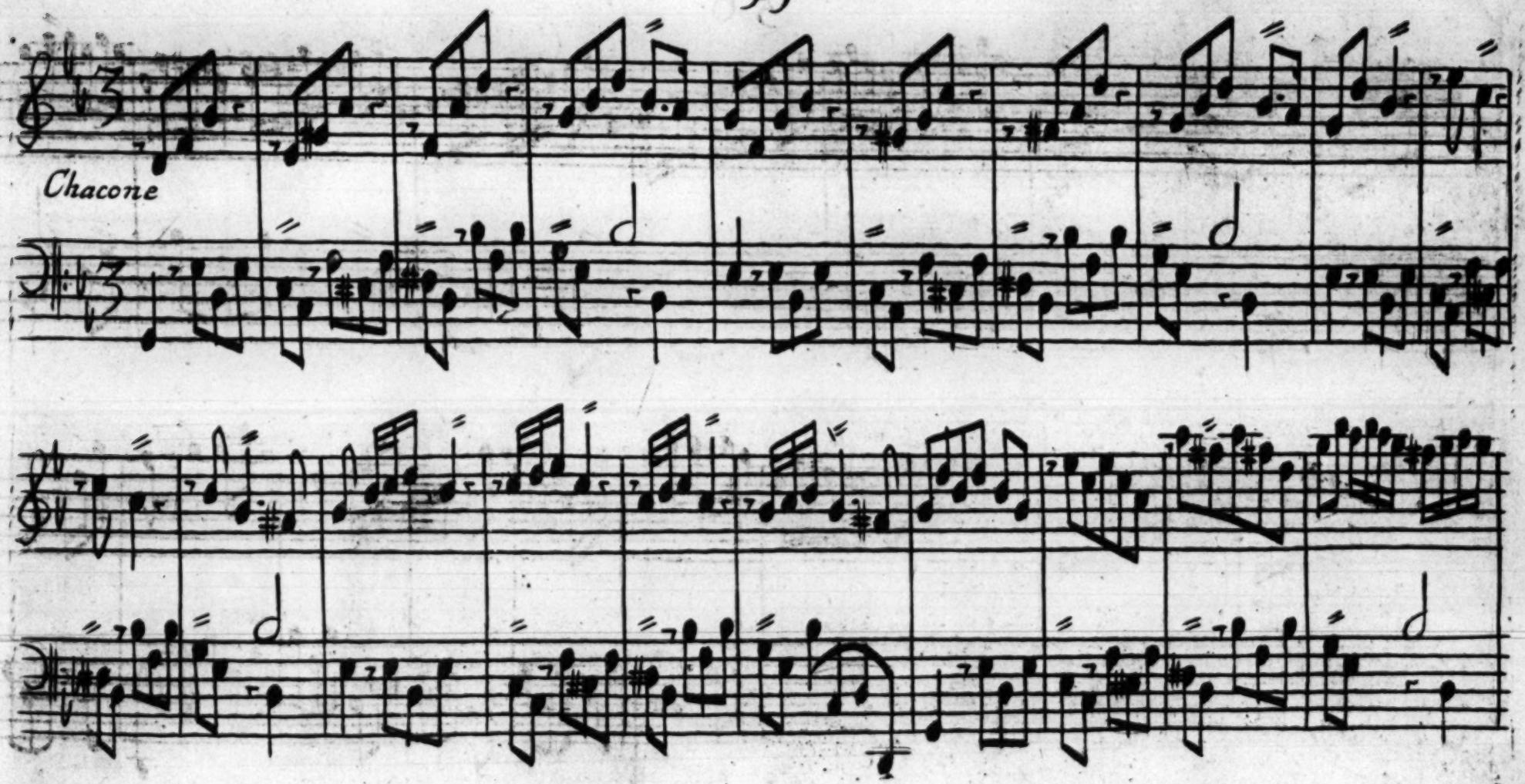
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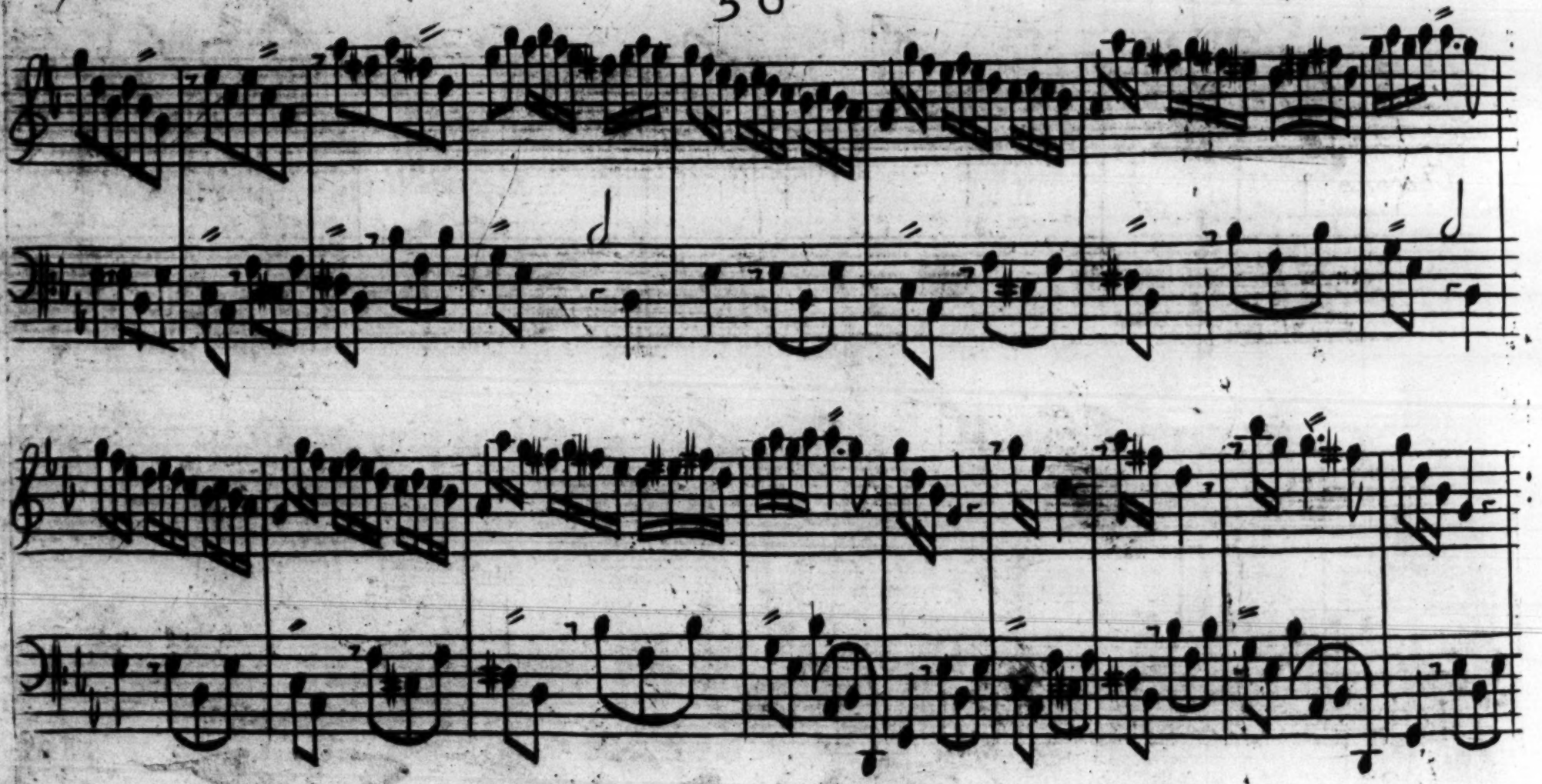

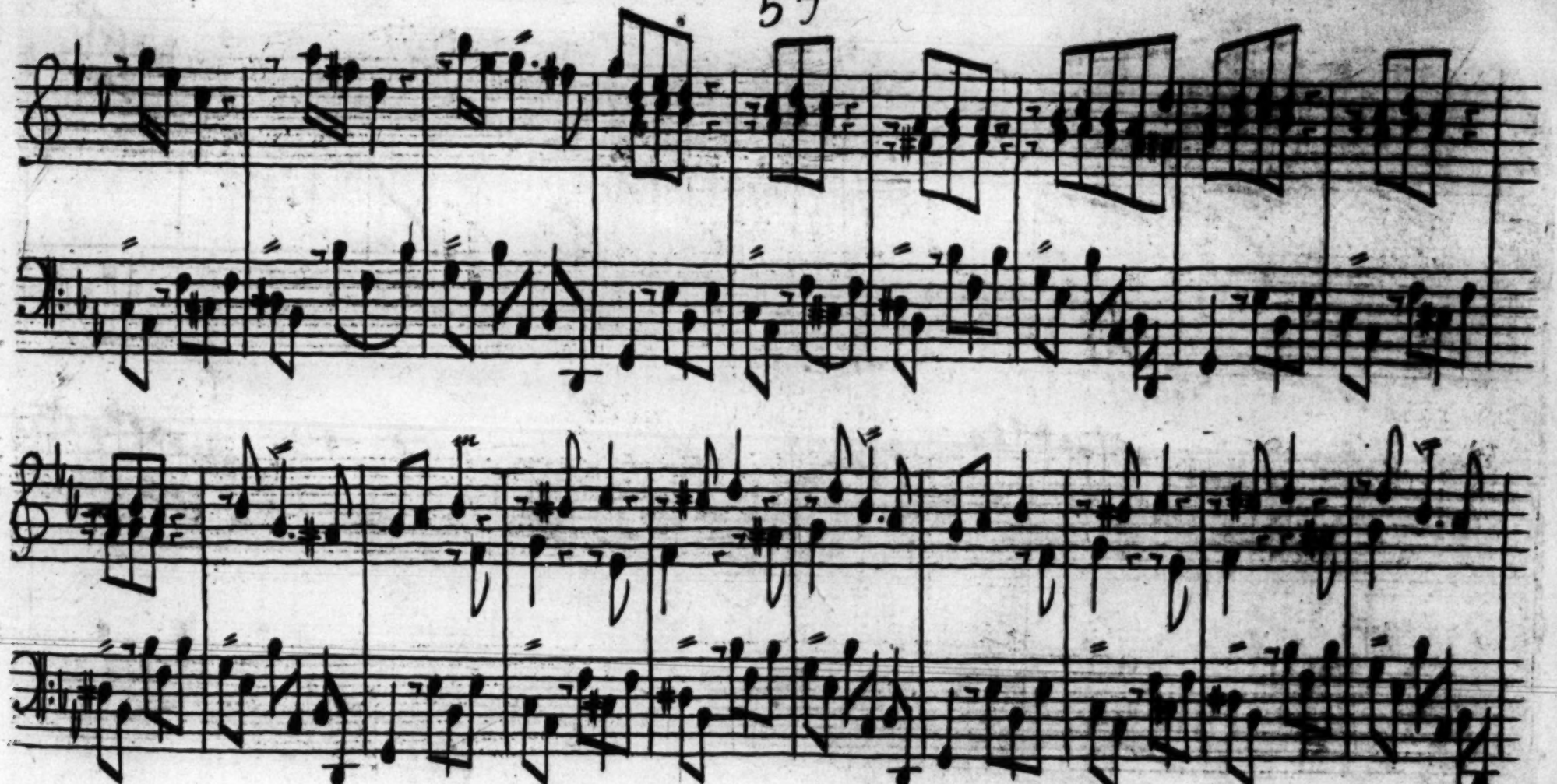

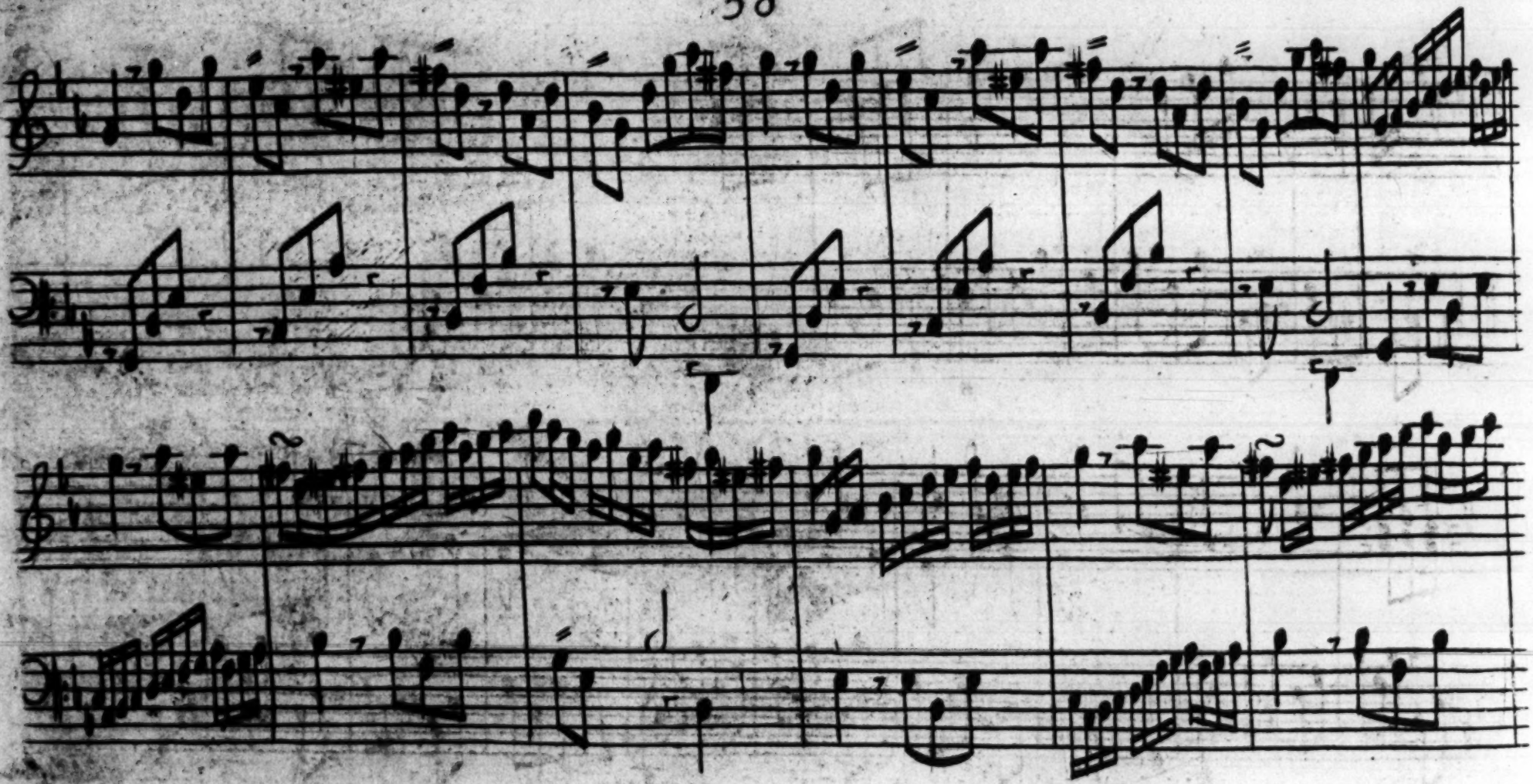

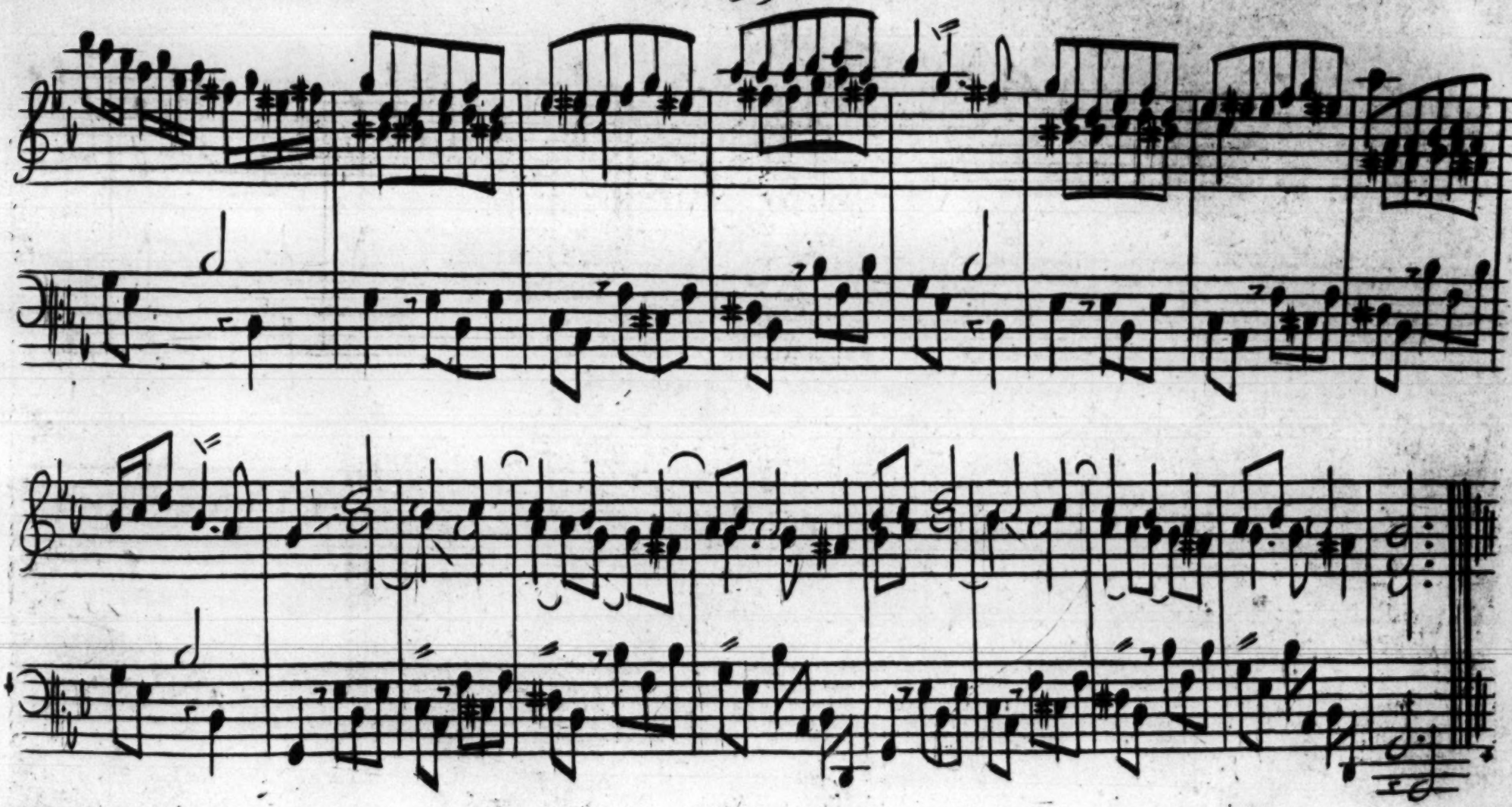

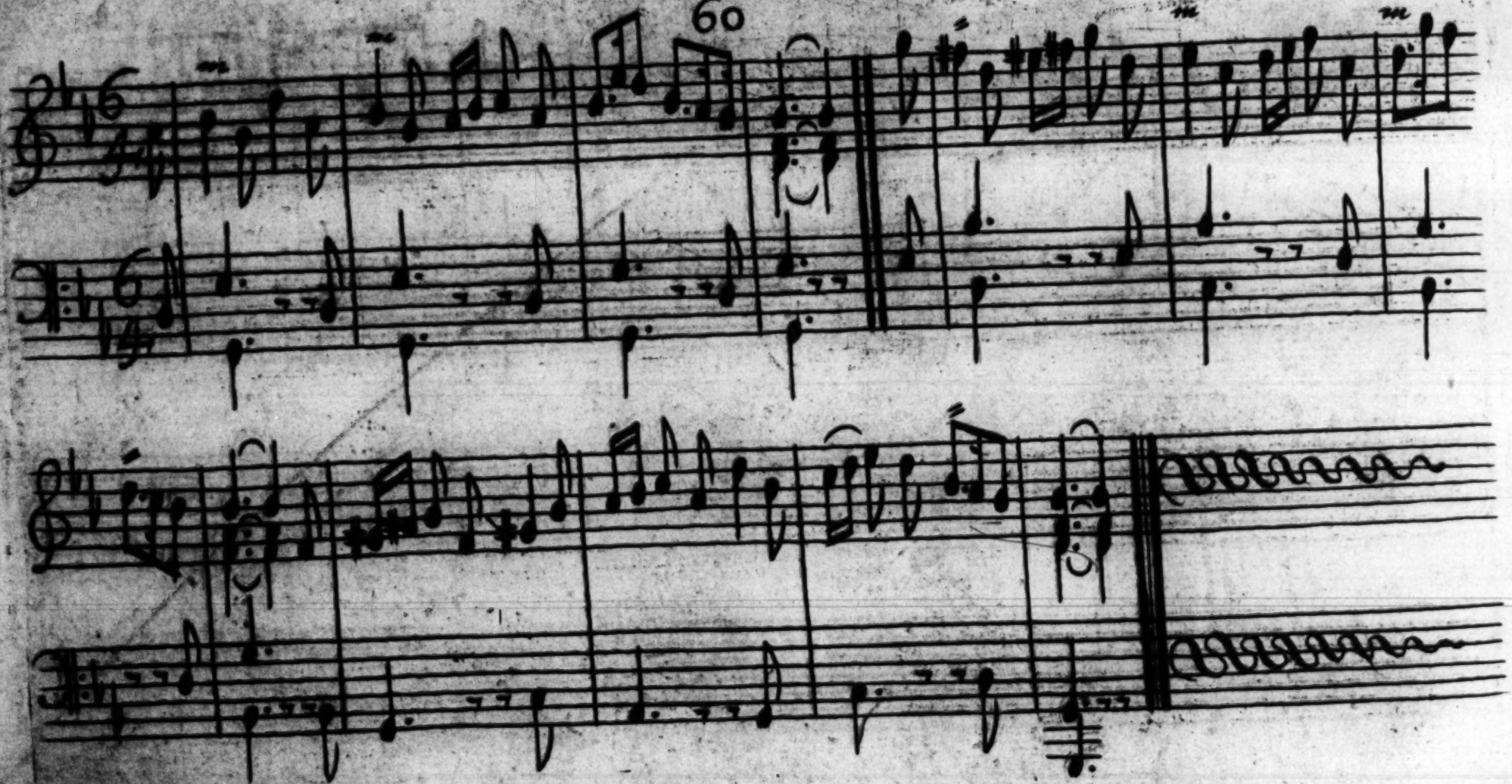

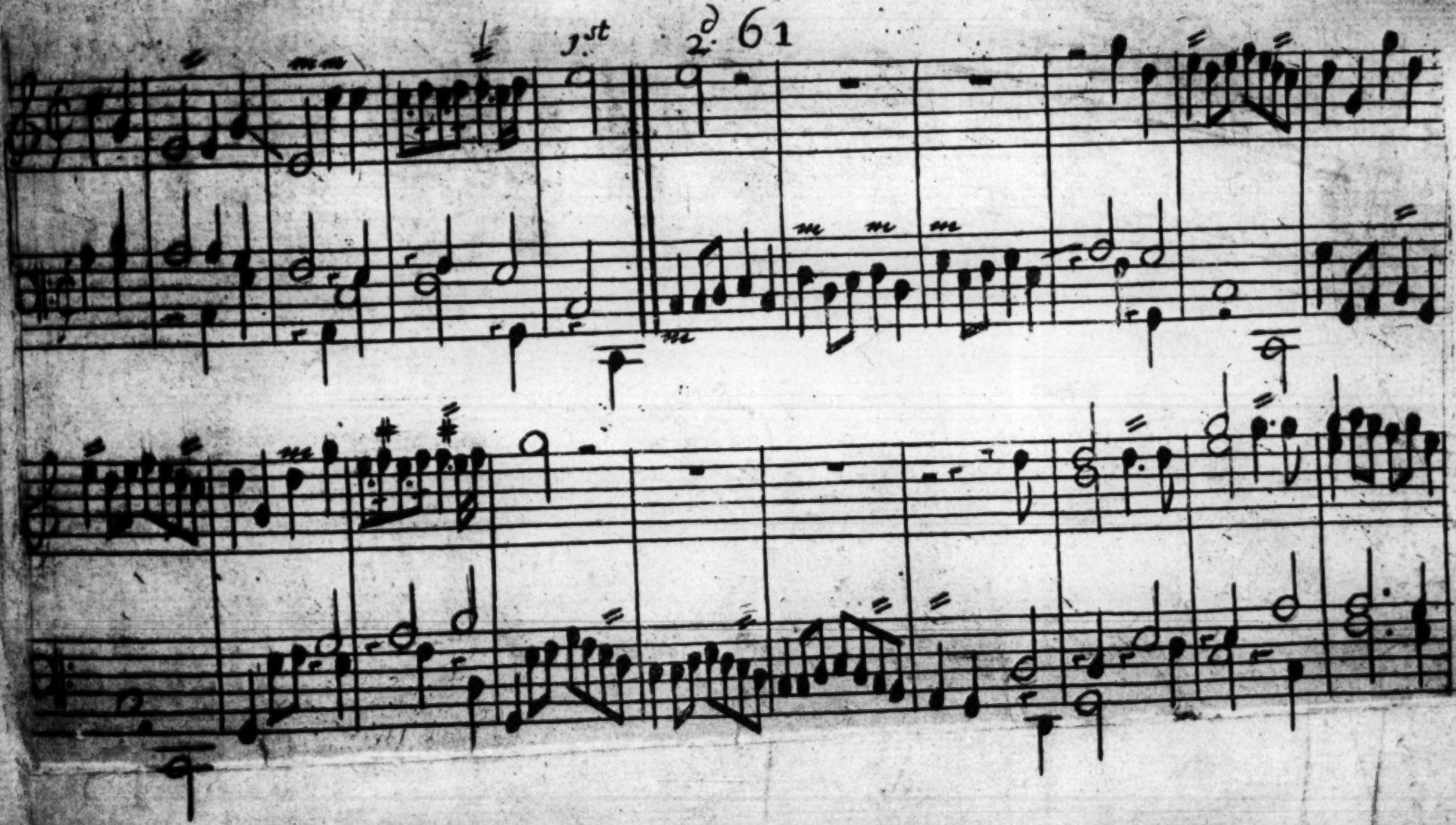
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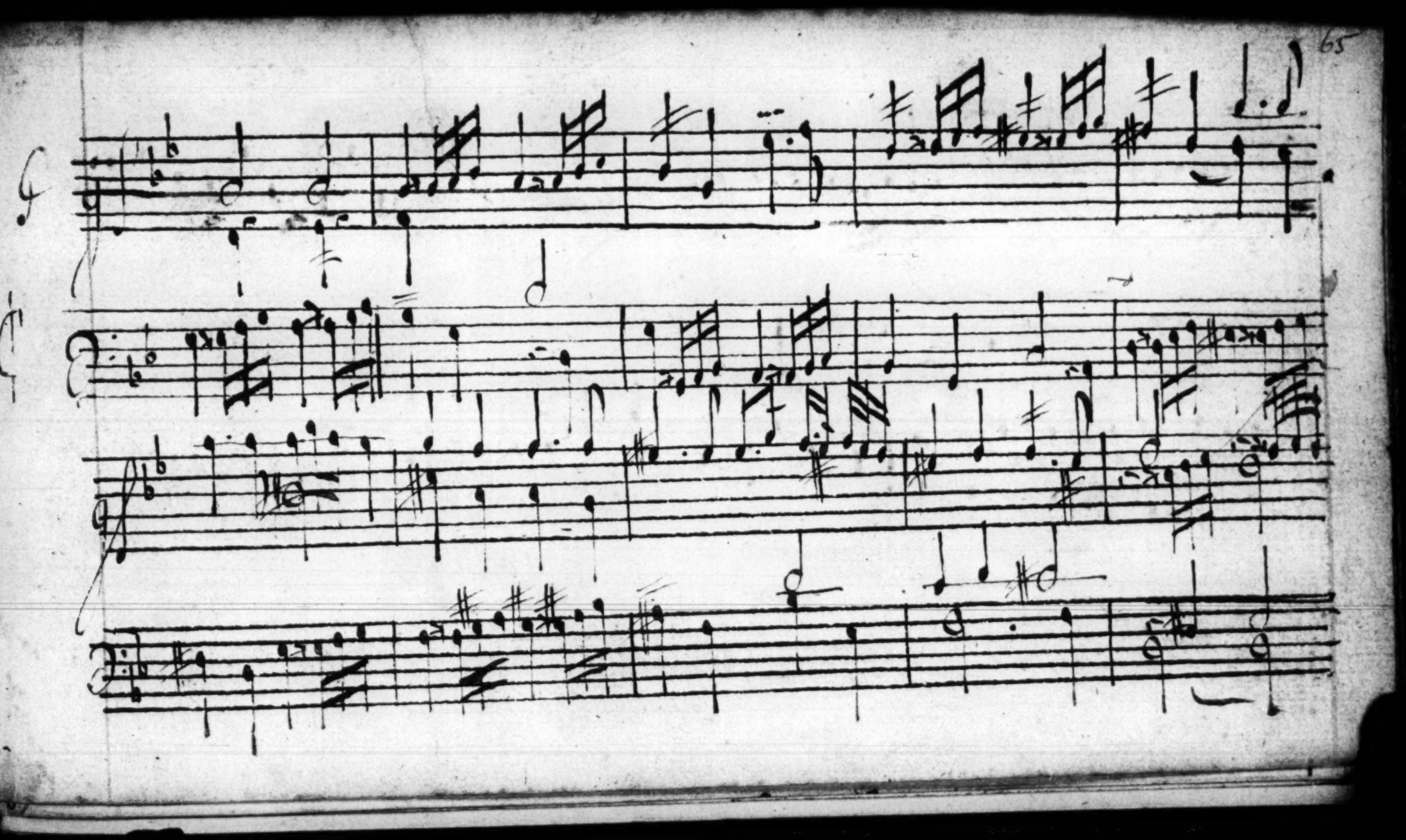

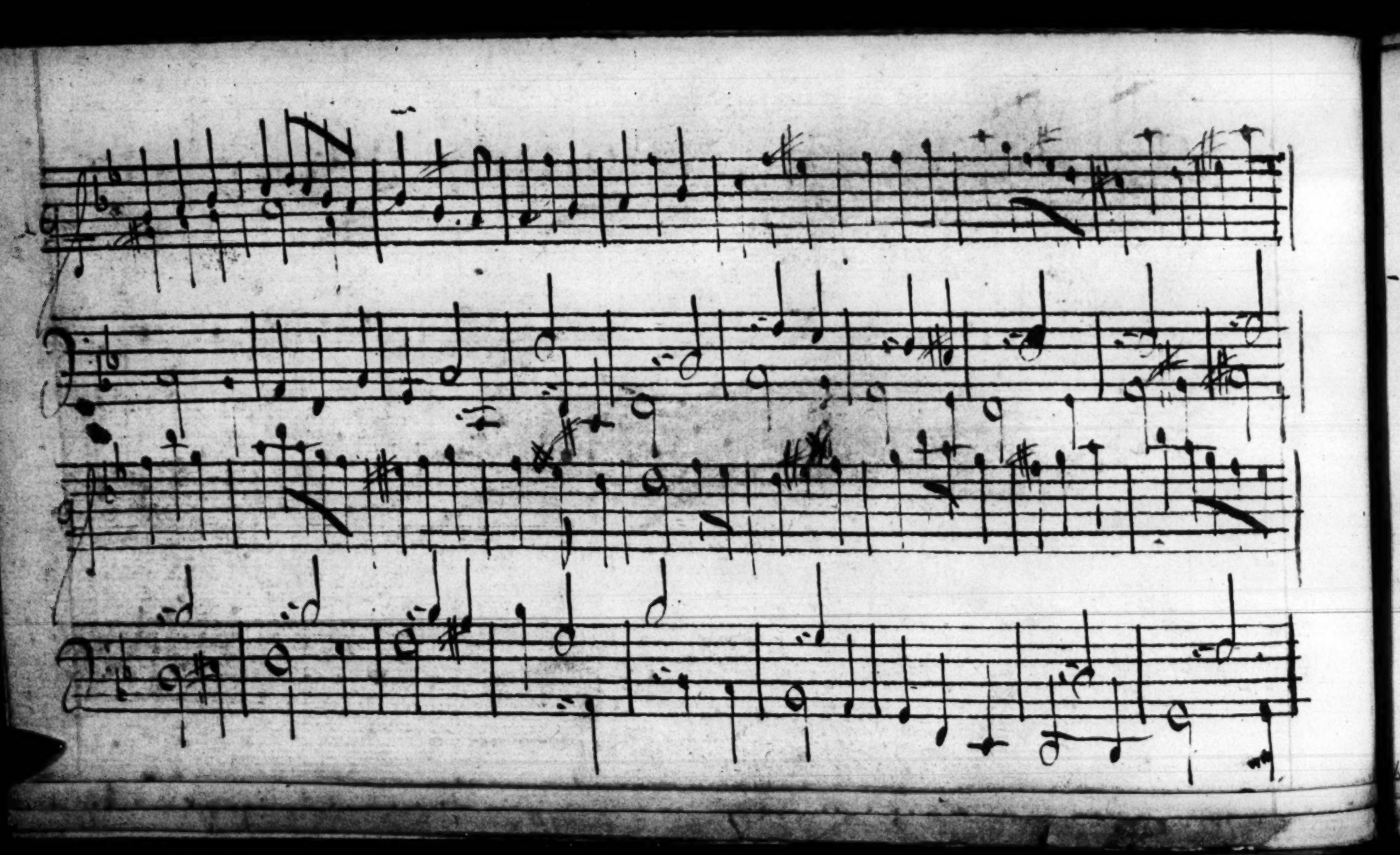

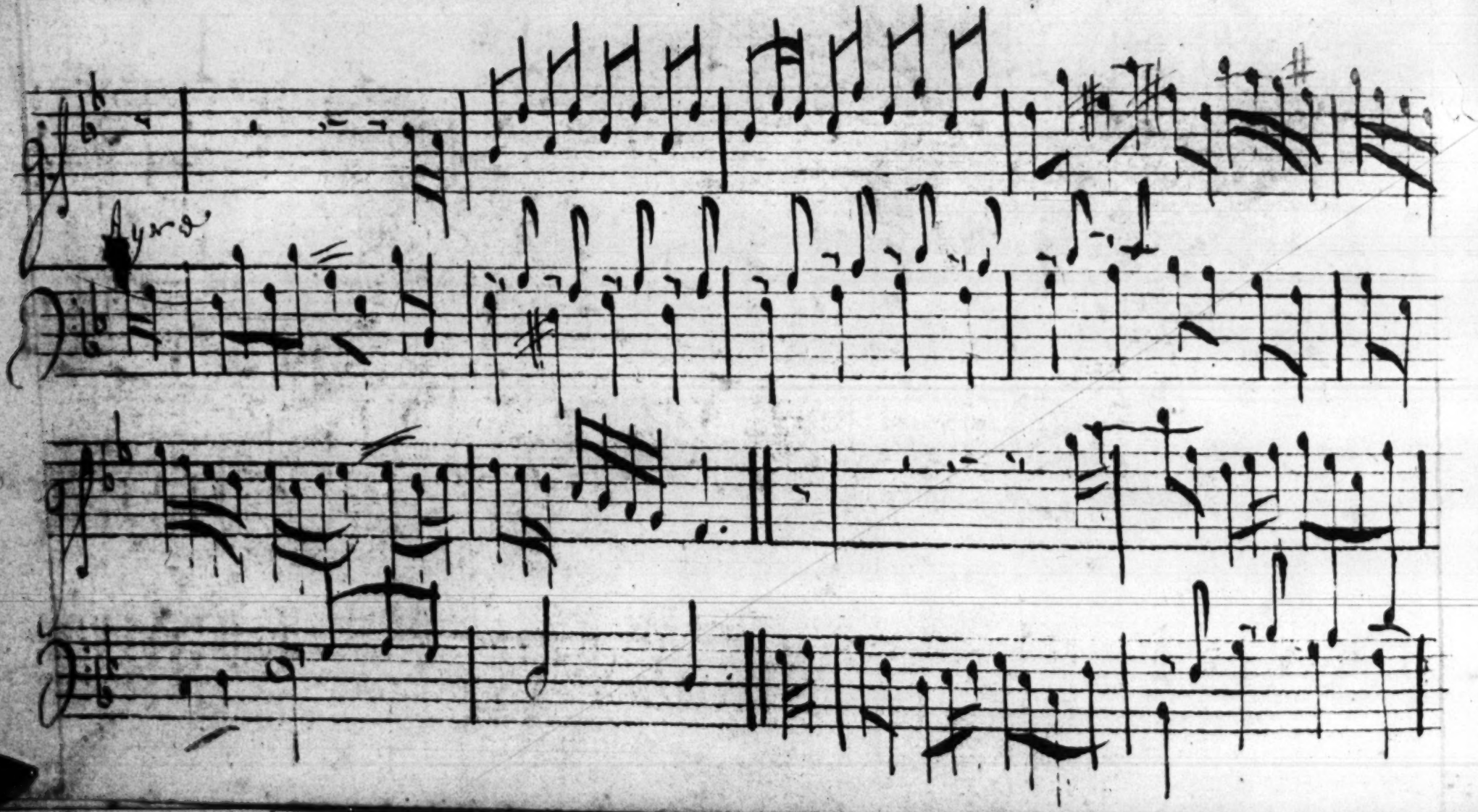

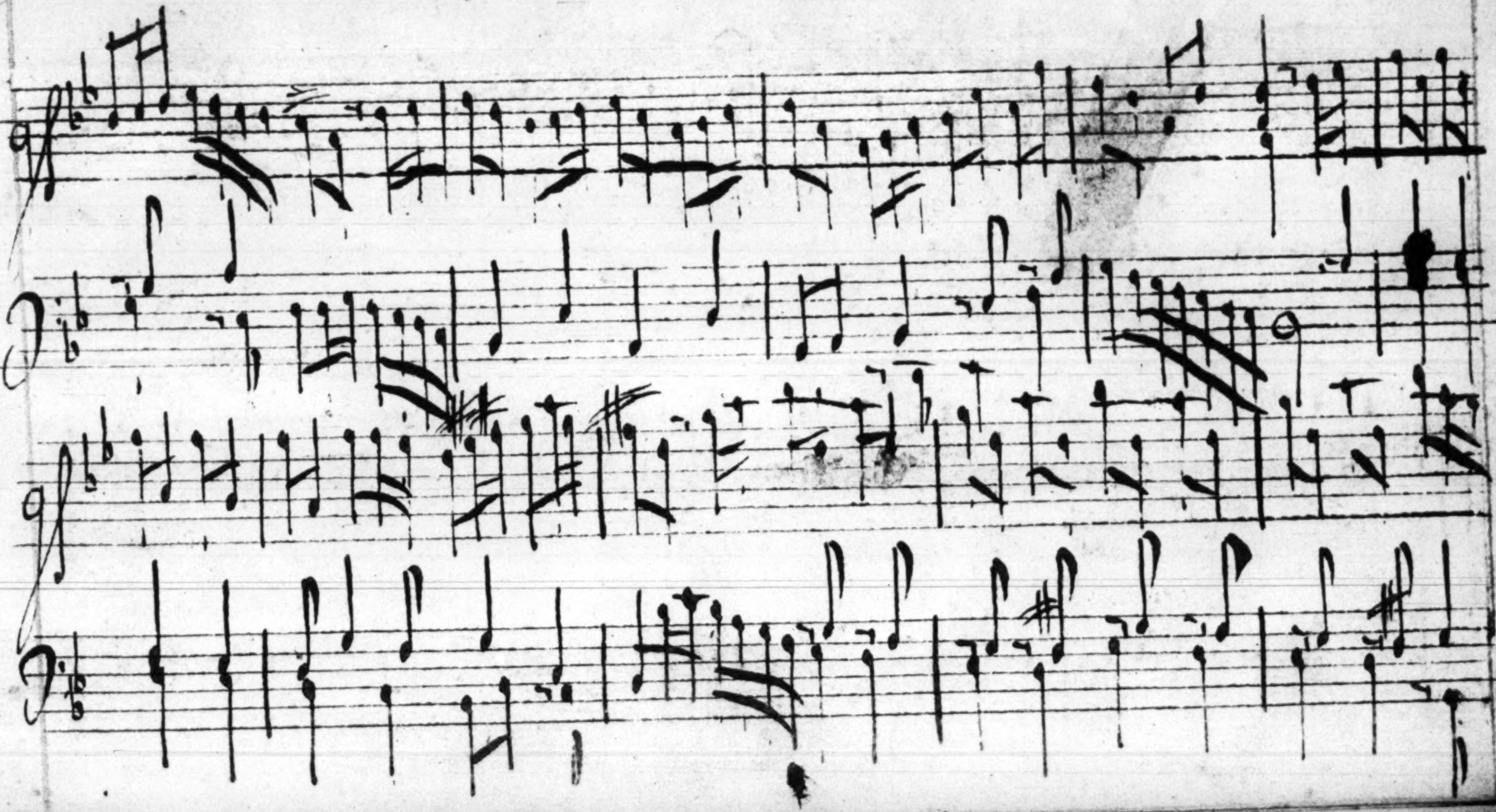

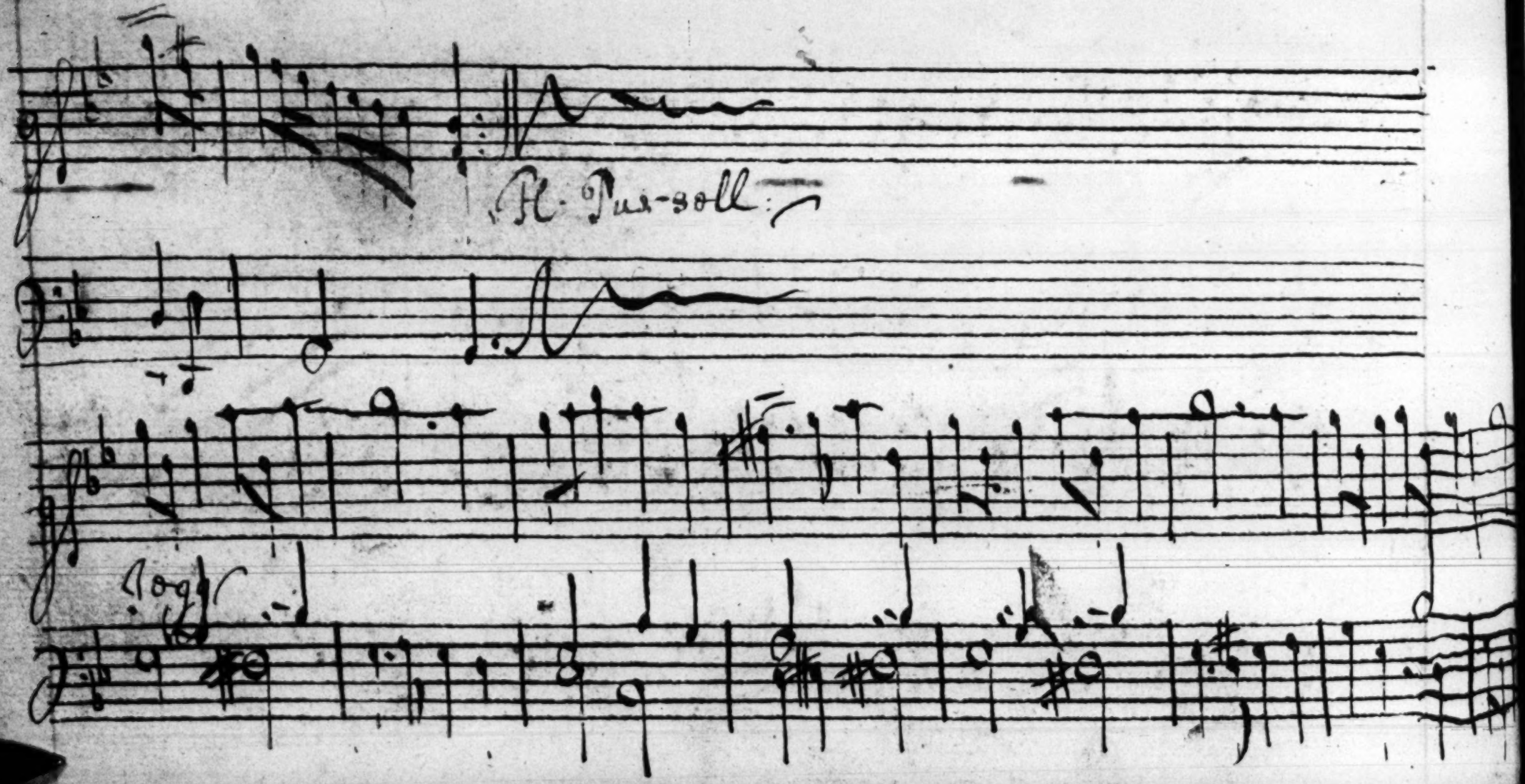
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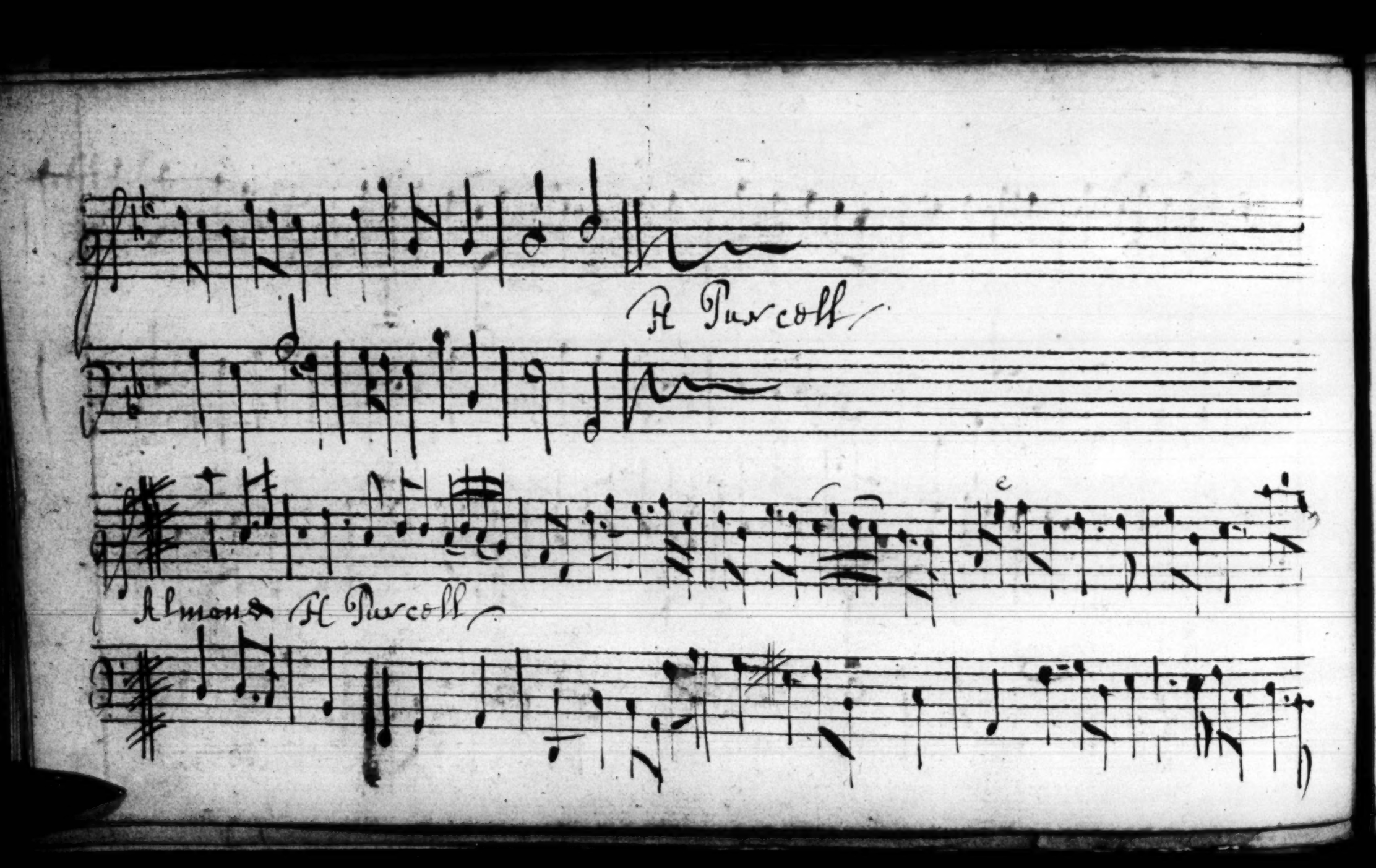
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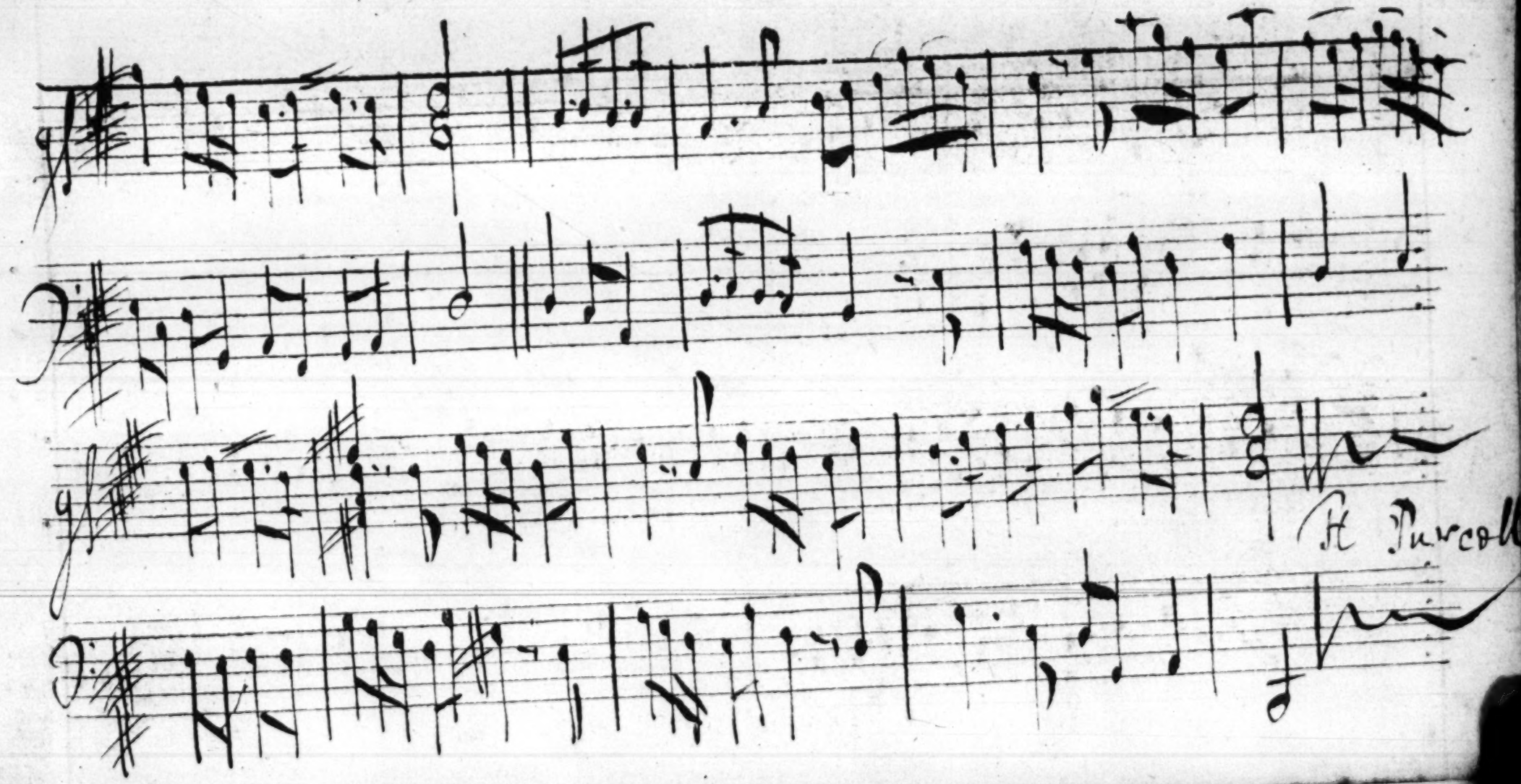
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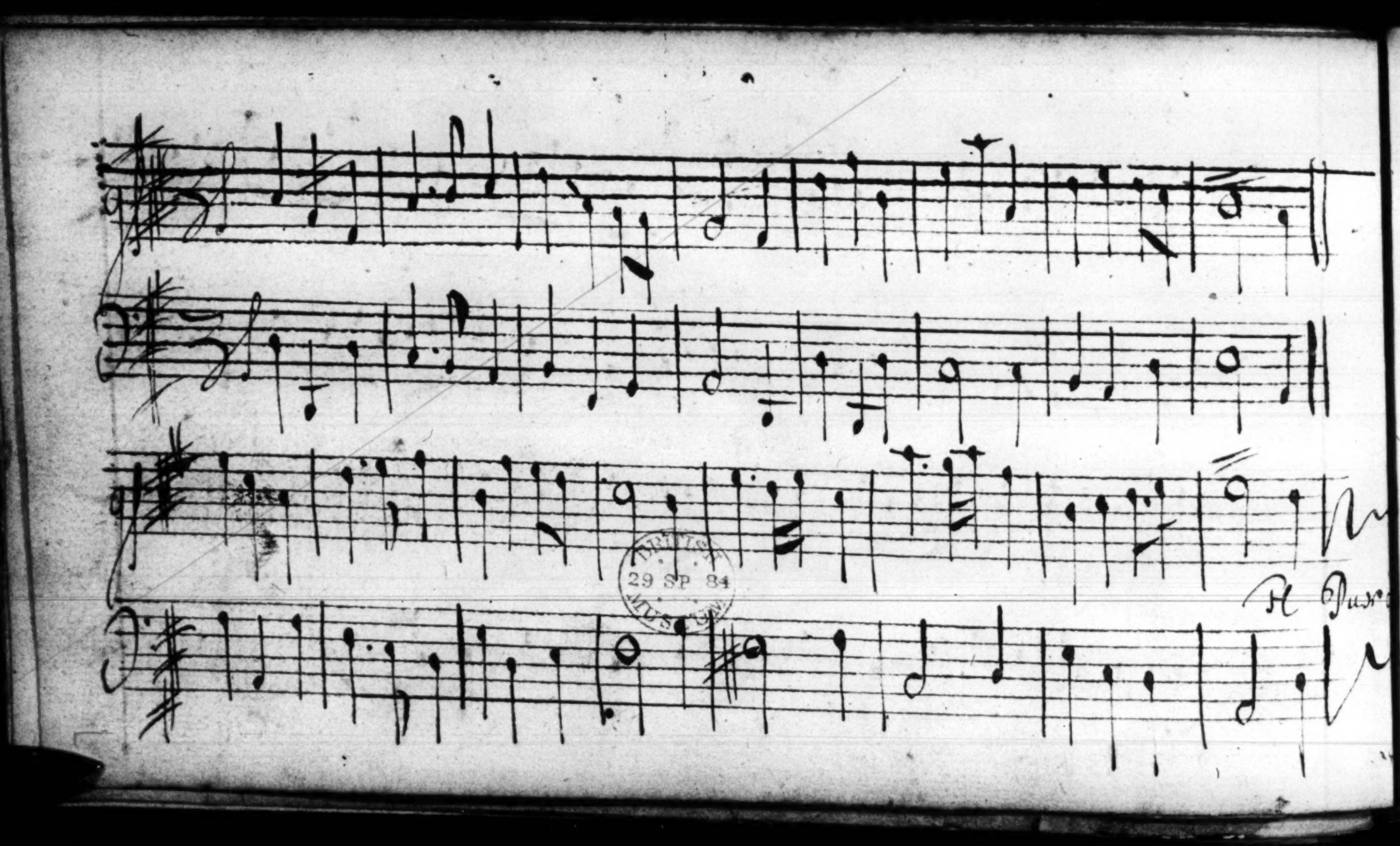
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